



## WHATCOM COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED ALERT

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225  
(360) 778-6234 [www.whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds)

### GOATSRUE (*Galega officinalis*)

**Legal Listings:** Class A in Whatcom County/Washington State, Washington State Prohibited Plants List, Federal Noxious Weed List.

#### Identification:

- Herbaceous perennial plant
- Pea-like flowers in pink, purple, and white, June to October
- Grows up to 4-6 feet tall
- Upright stems are hollow with a deep taproot
- Alternate leaves with 6-10 pairs of leaflets

#### Threat:

Goatsrue contains an alkaloid which is poisonous to sheep, cattle and humans. It is capable of displacing native and beneficial plants and destroying wildlife habitat. Forms monocultures in wetlands and marshy areas and is also found in open fields and along roadsides. Plants can produce up to 15,000 seedpods and seeds can remain viable in the soil for 5-10 years.



#### Distribution:

Limited distribution in King and Pierce Counties. Currently known on 23 individual sites on a Whatcom County roadside, totaling an estimated 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Native to the Mideast, Southern Europe and Northern Africa.

#### What Can You Do?

Please check your property for Goatsrue and report it to the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Program. Not sure you have it? You can request a field inspection or submit photos to: [LBaldwin@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:LBaldwin@co.whatcom.wa.us)

