

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Swainsonpea
Sphaerophysa salsula

Other common names: Austrian peaweed, red bladder-vetch

USDA symbol: CEDI3
ODA rating: B



Introduction: This plant was introduced from Asia and is commonly found in western states along roadsides and fences. It is a potential threat to clover and alfalfa seed growing areas as the seed is the same size, shape and weight as the desirable crop seed, making it impossible to separate.

Distribution in Oregon: The first recorded site in Oregon was in 1936 in Umatilla County. It is fairly contained in two NE Oregon Counties.

Description: Perennial; flowers from May to July. It grows as a creeping or spreading plant with compound leaves. The numerous leaflets are oval shaped and hairy. Flowers are 1/4 to 1 inch long and orange-red. Many seeds are produced in bladder-like translucent pods.

Impacts: The plant was introduced from Asia and is commonly found throughout western states in irrigated fields as well as moist non-crop areas along roadsides and fences. It poses an economic threat to grain and alfalfa growing regions. The seed is a contaminant in alfalfa seed production with the weed seed being the same size, shape and weight as alfalfa seed, making it impossible to separate. Alkaloids in the plant may make it poisonous to livestock.

Biological controls: There no approved biological control agents available.

