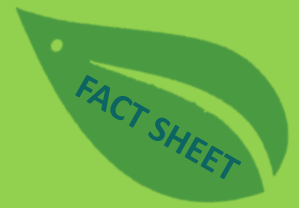


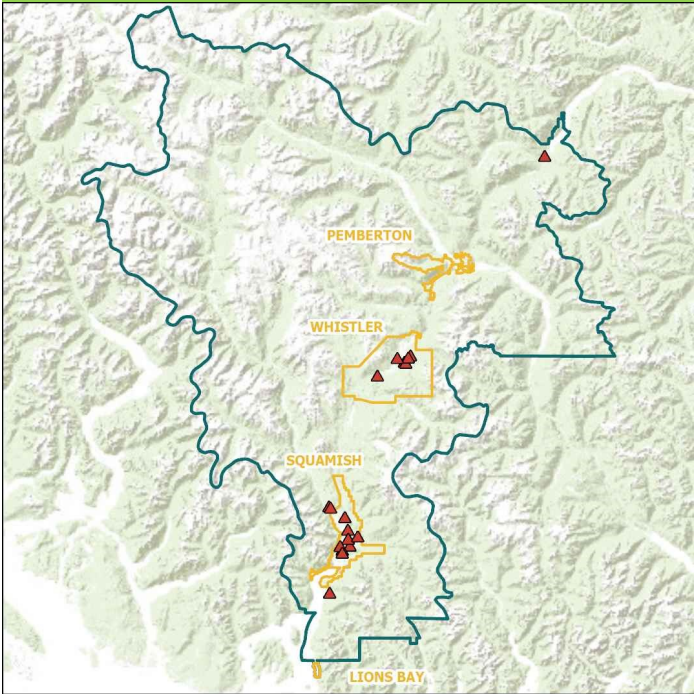
Flat Pea

Lathyrus sylvestris



Squamish: Eradicate | Whistler: Eradicate | Pemberton: Prevent

DISTRIBUTION



Origin: Introduced from Eurasia, Flat Pea was used as a garden ornamental and an erosion control agent.

Habitat: Although this warped weed is known to escape gardens, Flat Pea is primarily found among disturbed areas with full sun and dry soil. This plant thrives in dry thickets, exposed clearings, roadsides and waste disposal sites along low elevation areas.

Reproduction: Flat Pea spreads through both seed production and root rhizomes. With deep, horizontal roots, the plant produces new growth every spring. Mature plants also produce seed pods that twist and eject the seeds up to 10 m away.

IDENTIFICATION



Flowers: Are white, pink or red, and grow in clusters of 4 - 9 flowers on long stalks. The petals are two different sizes, but the flowers are symmetrical (zygomorphic), the only exception being the protruding seed pod at the center. The petals have a lateral, wing-like shape.

Stems: Hairless tendril-like stems that are constantly climbing, growing approximately 1.8 - 2 m long.

Leaves: Blue-green, smooth compound leaves that grow in pairs, interrupted only by branched tendrils. These narrow leaf-stalks are vaguely ovate, approximately 10 cm long and 2 - 3 cm across.

Fruits: Seed pods measure in at 4 - 6 cm long and their shape resembles that of edible peas, becoming dark grey or even black at maturity. These pods typically contain 10 - 20 seeds each.

Similar Species:

- **Native:** Marsh Peavine (*Lathyrus palustris*) and Pinewood Peavine (*L. lanszwertii*)
- **Non-native:** Grass Peavine (*L. sphaericus*)
- **Invasive:** Broad-leaved Peavine (*Lathyrus latifolius*)

Broad-leaved Peavine has larger seedpods and leaves, but both have very similar growing conditions.

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Vectors of Spread: Flat Pea is sometimes used as a garden ornamental, and may be sold in wildflower seed mixes. Roadside mowing also spreads the plant to new locations. Lastly, seeds can be transported to new areas through human activities, water and animals.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Flat Pea is found in communities the Sea to Sky Region, so PREVENTION of further spread is key:

- Regularly monitor properties for weed infestations.
- Ensure soil and gravel are uncontaminated before transport.
- Don't unload, park, or store equipment or vehicles in infested areas; thoroughly clean any equipment, vehicles, or clothing used in such areas and wash equipment and vehicles at designated cleaning sites before leaving infested regions.
- Ensure plants (particularly flowering heads or root fragments) are bagged and/or covered during transportation to designated disposal sites (e.g. landfill).
Do NOT compost.
- Don't plant Flat Pea Peavine in a garden, no matter how well-contained the area might seem.

Flat Pea can be controlled by:

- **Mechanical Control:** For small infestations, regular hand-pulling can control the above-ground plant bodies, but encourage the germination of seeds already deposited in the soil. Cutting into the surrounding ground and covering the entire infested area with woven plastic fabric or other tarp-like material is a highly successful control method. Unfortunately, this method requires the ground covering to be in place for a minimum of 2 years, and will kill all plants underneath (including native plant populations).
- **Chemical Control:** Translocated and selective herbicides (for broad-leaved plants) can be effective on Flat Pea, such as triclopyr and dicamba. Picloram is also effective, however it is not suitable for wet, coastal soil. We recommend that any herbicide application is carried out by a person holding a valid BC Pesticide Applicator Certificate. Before selecting and applying herbicides, you must review and follow herbicide labels and application rates; municipal, regional, provincial and federal laws and regulations; species-specific treatment recommendations, and site-specific goals and objectives.
- **Biological Control:** There is no biocontrol agent is currently available for Flat Pea.
- **Cultural Control:** Flat Pea has proven palatable to goats, and can be partially controlled under regular grazing.

If you suspect you have found Flat Pea anywhere in the Sea to Sky region:

Contact the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council to report and for the most recent, up to date control methods. All reports will be kept confidential.

References: Electronic Atlas of the Flora of BC, Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Program, Midwest Invasive Species Information Network, Nature Gate, Plants For A Future, US Department of Agriculture.

IMPACTS

Ecological:

- **Sprawling mats of Flat Pea choke out sunlight for native undergrowth and form dense, impenetrable monocultures.**

Health:

- **Toxic to humans and livestock. It can cause lathyrism if ingested in large quantities.**



REPORT SIGHTINGS

Visit ssisc.ca/report

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