

Flat Pea and Broad-leaved Peavine

Lathyrus sylvestris and *Lathyrus latifolius*



IDENTIFICATION AND COMPARISON GUIDE

Flat Pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) and Broad-leaved Peavine (*L. latifolius*) both originate from Eurasia. They were introduced as erosion control plants due to their ability to begin soil improvement processes in severely disturbed and acidic soils.

Both plants are widespread in North America and found mainly in disturbed sites, such as clearings, roadsides and waste areas. Flat Pea and Broad-leaved Peavine are frequent garden escapees that require partial to full sun and a relatively dry soil. Vines are often found growing up into trees and shrubs or 'crawling' along the ground.

Flat Pea

(*Lathyrus sylvestris*)

Broad-leaved Peavine

(*Lathyrus latifolius*)

Flowers



Similarities:

Both have long-stalked clusters of pea-like magenta-pink (and rarely white) flowers.

Flat Pea has fewer flowers:

4-9 flowers in a cluster.



Broad-leaved Peavine has more flowers:

5-15 flowers in a cluster.



Fruit



Similarities:

Pods (legumes) are hairy and contain 10 - 20 seeds.

Flat Pea pods are smaller:

Pods are 4 - 6 cm long by 4 - 6 mm wide.



Broad-leaved Peavine pods are larger:

Pods are 6 - 10 cm long and 7 - 10 mm wide.



Flat Pea

(*Lathyrus sylvestris*)

Broad-leaved Peavine

(*Lathyrus latifolius*)

Stems

Similarities:

Both species lie on the ground or climb up low trees and bushes.

Both plants have widely winged and glabrous stems.



Leaves

Similarities:

Alternate, with narrowly-winged leaf stalks.

Blades are smooth and pinnately compound with a terminal leaflet modified into a tendril.

Leaflets form a narrow oval. Tendrils are well-developed and grasping.

Leaf margins are entire. Leaves grow up to 15 cm long.



Broad-leaved Peavine leaves are narrower:

Leaves are up to 2.5 cm wide.

Leaves do not have a blue-green tinge.



Broad-leaved Peavine leaves are wider:

Leaves are up to 5 cm wide.

Leaves have a blue-green tinge.



References: Consortium of Wisconsin Herbaria, E-Flora BC, Invasive Plant Atlas of the US, Jefferson County NWCP, Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley, Michigan Flora Online, Midwest Invasive Species Information Network, Nature Gate, New York Flora Atlas, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plants for a Future, University of Michigan Herbarium, US Department of Agriculture, Washington State NWCP.

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