

STOP THE SPREAD



UNWANTED PLANTS

Bird Vetch crowds out native vegetation and can aggressively take over areas of prairie habitat!

Origin

Introduced from Europe and Asia accidentally as a seed contaminant or purposely for forage and cover crops as it is very palatable to livestock.

Status

Bird Vetch has escaped from cultivation and is found throughout Canada, including Manitoba.

Impacts

Prairie habitat is considered to be at high risk for bird vetch invasions. Disturbed soil provides a perfect opportunity for bird vetch to establish. Bird Vetch aggressively climbs fencing, trees, bushes and other vegetation, monopolizing sunlight, space and moisture.

Where to Look

It is found in meadows, pastures, row crops, roadsides, disturbed sites, and can still be found in gardens.



Look For:

◊ A climbing or trailing weak-stemmed perennial herb, 5-150 cm in length.

◊ Pinnately-divided into 8-24 pairs of linear to oblong leaflets.

◊ Flower heads hold 20-50 purple to blue flowers, 1.5cm long.



Prevent the Spread in Manitoba

Persistent low trimming in early spring can starve the roots and prevent flowers and seeds from developing. Hand removal or herbicide can also be effective control methods. Repeated treatments may be necessary.

Report a Sighting:

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EDDMapS Prairie Region

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System Manitoba & Saskatchewan

<http://www.eddmaps.org/prairieregion/>

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