

Lathyrus torreyi A. Gray

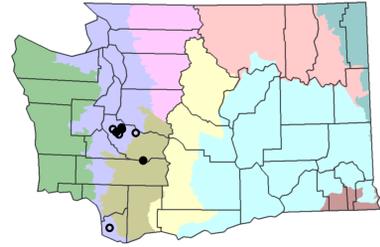
Torrey's peavine

Fabaceae - pea family

status: State Threatened, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM strategic

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Vining rhizomatous perennial, usually with long, soft hairs throughout. Stems 0.5-4 dm long, erect to decumbent, slender, angled but not winged. Leaves pinnate; leaflets 10-16, paired to scattered, 5-25 (30) mm long, elliptic to obovate with an abruptly pointed tip, tendrils lacking but rachis prolonged as a short bristle.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers 1-2 per raceme, 8-13 mm long. Banner pale lilac to bluish lilac or blue, 10-15 mm long. Wings and keel about equal to the banner; wings pale bluish lilac to nearly white, keel white with a well-recurved tip. Calyx 6-10 mm long, the teeth linear-lanceolate, the lower 3 longer than the tube and nearly half again as long as the upper 2.

Fruits: Pods 2 cm x 4-5 mm, with 4-7 seeds. Identifiable May to July.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from other *Lathyrus* in its range by the combination of its lack of a winged stem, lack of true tendrils, and only 1-2 flowers per raceme.

Range: Pierce Co., WA, south to Santa Cruz Co., CA.

Habitat/Ecology: Open areas, trail edges, and open woods, usually at low-elevation sites dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) but also reported from lower montane areas dominated by black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*) and willow (*Salix* spp.). Elevations in WA: 100-600 m (320-2025 ft). Topography is relatively gentle. Other associated species include red alder (*Alnus rubra*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*, *R. leucodermis*), Scot's broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), clover (*Trifolium* spp.), and starflower (*Trientalis borealis* ssp. *latifolia*). *L. torreyi* forms dense patches when competition is low, but declines when there is significant cover of other species. Natural disturbances, such as fire and windthrow, probably helped create this species' habitat historically.

Comments: This taxon was thought to have been extirpated from WA as recently as 1994. Threats include development, timber management activities, and competition from weedy plants.

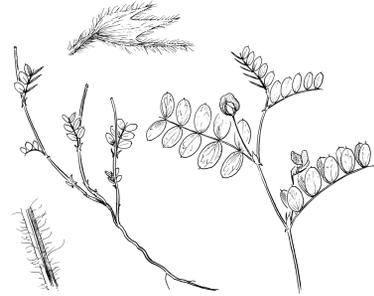


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