

APRIL

weed of the month

PERENNIAL PEAVINE

Lathyrus latifolius



IDENTIFICATION

A climbing, perennial vine found in open and disturbed areas, like roadsides and forest clearcuts. Can grow 2-7 ft long. Each leaf has 2 leaflets (3" long and 1" across), shaped like mermaid tails. Winged stems have long tendrils and 2 flattened edges growing out along stem. 4-10 pea-like flowers are 1" long and can be white, red or pink, growing along the stalks. Has smooth, flattened seedpods with several seeds inside. Pods start green and ripen to brown before splitting open and tossing the seeds out.



IMPACTS

Perennial peavine is increasingly a problem in Western Oregon on rights-of-way, forested regions and natural areas. Growth can become dense, and as infestations increase in size, native plant biodiversity reduces and is smothered out (especially the low-growing vegetation). Vines can also be found growing up into shrubs and trees. This also reduces habitat for native birds, pollinators and other wildlife.



MANAGEMENT

Small populations can be hand pulled. Digging will likely stimulate seed germination. Perennial peavine reproduces primarily through rhizomes, so cutting the plant at the soil surface will only work temporarily, as roots will continue to sprout. After removal, seed and/or plant with native plants such as checkermallow to provide competition; or tarp and mulch the area, to prevent reestablishment.



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