

**WRITTEN FINDINGS OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD**

Scientific Name: *Sphaerophysa salsula*

Common Name: Swainsonpea

Family: Leguminosae (Fabaceae)

Legal Status: Class B (a) regions 1,2,3,4,5,7,8
(b) Columbia, Garfield, Asotin and Franklin Counties
(c) an area beginning at the WA-OR border at the southwest portion of S15, R32E, T6N, then north to the northwest corner of S3, R32E, T7N, then east to the northeast corner of S3, R36E, T7N, then south to the southeast portion of S15, R36E, T6N, at the WA-OR border, then west along the WA-OR border to the point of beginning.

Description and Variation: Perennial, much branched from the base, with woody taproot and rhizome. Leaves are pinnately compound, alternate on the stem. Each leaf comprised of 9 to 25 leaflets which have silvery hairs. Flowers are brick red drying to purple, and occur on axillary stems, each with four to eight flowers. Fruits of this legume are inflated pods with seeds the size of alfalfa.

Economic Importance:

Detrimental: Serious threat to grain growing areas, seed would be a serious contaminant in the alfalfa grown for seed. A troublesome and persistent weed.

Beneficial:

Habitat: Found along roadsides, waste areas, fence rows, cropland. Prefers wet, irrigated lands.

Geographic Distribution: Native to Asia from the Caspian Sea to China. Present in California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho and Washington. In Washington known from the Columbia Basin. No collections known from western Washington.

History: Originally imported to the United States as a contaminant of alfalfa seed.

Growth and Development: Perennial, flowers May through July.

Reproduction: Seed and rhizome.

Response to Herbicide: Please refer to the Pacific Northwest Weed Control Handbook.

Response to Cultural Methods:

Response to Mechanical Methods:

Biocontrol Potentials:

References:

California Department of Agriculture Detection Manual.

A Guide to the Selected Weeds of Oregon.

Hitchcock, C.L. 1972. Flora of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Press.

Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist, et al. 1964. Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Press.

Anonymous. 1960. Weeds and Weed Seeds. Seedburo Equipment Co., Chicago, IL.

Whitson, T.D. 1987. Ed. Weeds and Poisonous Plants of Wyoming and Utah. Cooperative Extension, University of Wyoming.

**References available from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Office in Kent, WA.*

Rationale for Listing:

The seed is a contaminant to alfalfa. Swainsonpea is found growing in Washington, and by listing it as a noxious weed, the goal is to keep it from spreading to alfalfa field, to prevent seed contamination.

Notes: A noxious weed in Idaho. A Q rated weed in Oregon (newly detected species). A Class A noxious weed in California.