Goat’s Rue

**WANTED**

**Goat’s Rue**

**Immature Plants**
- Plant stems are hollow and cylindrical
- Alternate, pinnately compound leaves with 6–10 pairs of leaflets (1/2 – 2 inches long)
- Tip of each leaflet has a small hair-like appendage

**In Bloom**
- Purple to white, pea-like flowers
- Plant blooms from June throughout the growing season

**Goat’s Rue (Galega officinalis)**

A. Top of plant, showing arrangement of flowers on stem and compound leaves (0.65x); B. Arrowhead shaped stipules – leaf-like appendages at the base of each leaf (1.3x); C. Flower (5x); D. Seed, top and side views (9.75x); E. Old fruit, a legume (seed pod) (1.3x).
- Also known as Professor Weed and contains an alkaloid, galegin, that can be fatal to livestock when consumed in great quantities.

**Growth Habit**
- Perennial legume that ranges from 2-6 feet in height.
- Found in cropland, water-ways, pastures, fencelines, roadways, and wet, marshy areas.

**Seed Pods**
- Seed pods are narrow and 1-2 inches in length.

**Plants commonly confused with noxious Goat’s Rue**
- Baptisia australis or Blue False Indigo. A plant commonly sold by nurseries.
- Tephrosia virginiana. A native plant also known as Goat's Rue.
- Vicia villosa or Hairy Vetch. A cover crop used in agriculture.

**DON’T**
- Let livestock forage on noxious Goat’s Rue
- Buy, trade, plant or propagate noxious Goat’s Rue
- Distinguish noxious Goat’s Rue from other similar species (see website)
- Report locations of any noxious Goat’s Rue

**www.massnrc.org/pests**

This material was made possible, in part, by a cooperative agreement from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). It may not express APHIS’s views.