

Vetch – Great for the farm, not for the Park!

Vicia sativa

Vetch is native to Europe, Africa and Asia.

It is an annual herbaceous weak climbing plant with purplish pea like flowers. The stems are hollow with four sides, and can grow up to 2 metres long.

Flowers July to November

Vetch competes with our native plants for moisture and nutrients, and can shade out seedlings. Vetch is nitrogen fixing, so changes the nutrient content of soils, making them vulnerable to further weed infestation.



In farming situations, Vetch is grown as a green manure and as livestock fodder.

Vetch has become an environmental weed in the Eastern States, South Australia, and southern parts of Western Australia, as well as other parts of the world, such as North America, south-eastern Asia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

We control Vetch through hand pulling, but glyphosate spray is also effective. Reclaim the park - remove some Vetch.



Don't confuse Vetch with Hardenbergia, Indigofera, Cullen, Glycine or Lotus.

Credit: Wikipedia, E-flora of SA and Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)Queensland.

