



# American Vetch

*Vicia americana*

**General:** Native legume, perennial, climbing vine. Rhizomatous (spreads through roots), has branched taproot reaching 40 feet deep enabling to tolerate severe drought. Can be aggressive and invasive in some areas.

**Height:** 12-36"

**Bloom:** 2-9 flowers (1/2—3/4" long) in loose clusters ranging in color from pink to purple to blue. Blooms May—August. One to 1.5 inch seed pod after bloom.

**Leaves:** pinnately compound with odd number of leaflets (3-9, usually 5). Each leaflet 1" long and 1/8" wide. Hairless.

**Habitat:** Widely distributed west of the Mississippi River and recognized with 3 sup species. Adapted to sites receiving less than 12" annual precipitation.

**Faunal:** Important species for wildlife, native pollinators, and known larval host plant for the western blue-tailed butterfly.

**Seed:** Best seeded in fall. 33,000 seeds/#.

