

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

LATHYRUS LANSZWERTII VAR.
LANSZWERTII
NEVADA SWEETPEA
Family: Fabaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

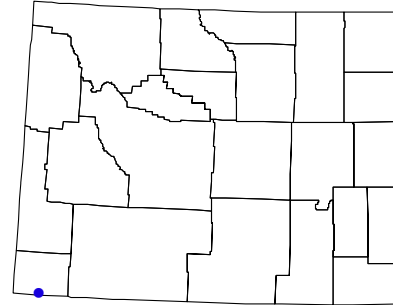
Global: G4G5T4 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

Medium Wyoming Significance

Description: Nevada sweetpea is a perennial herb with slender rhizomes and erect to clambering, vine-like stems 10-60 cm tall. Leaves are once-pinnately compound with 6-12 narrowly elliptic leaflets that average 4 or more times longer than wide. The leaves terminate in a branched or coiled tendril. Stipules are arrowhead-shaped and 4-18 mm long. The inflorescence is often surpassed by the upper leaves and consists of 2-5 pea flowers borne on short stalks. The calyx tube is 3.5-6 mm long and bell-shaped with unequal teeth. Flowers are 12-17 mm long and mostly dark pink or purplish. Fruiting pods are 30-60 mm long x 3-7 mm wide (Barneby 1989; Welsh et al. 1993).

Similar Species: *Lathyrus lanszwertii* var. *leucanthus* is an erect, non-viney herb with white or cream-colored flowers 15-22 mm long, leaflets mostly 3-4 times as long as wide, and tendrils that are simple and unbranched. *L. lanszwertii* var. *pallescens* is a white-flowered form (often with pink venation) that replaces typical var. *lanszwertii* in NE Utah and has been reported from SW Wyoming by Barneby (1989). *L. eucosmus* is an erect, non-viney herb with flowers 15-30 mm long.



Wyoming distribution of *Lathyrus lanszwertii* var. *lanszwertii*.

Vicia americana has narrower leaflets and smaller flowers.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.

Distribution: Washington to California and Idaho, south to southwestern Wyoming, central Utah, and Nevada. In Wyoming, known from the north slope of the Uinta Range in Uinta County. Reports from Fremont and Hot Springs counties in Wyoming are probably *L. eucosmus*.

Habitat: Reported from aspen, Douglas-fir, spruce/fir, and mountain brush communities in Utah (Welsh et al. 1993). Wyoming populations are found in mesic meadows and willow communities on clay soils at 8680-8800 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Only 1-3 populations of var. *lanszwertii* are known in Wyoming, one of which is historical and whose authenticity is somewhat doubtful (the specimen appears to be intermediate between var. *lanszwertii* and var.

leucanthus). The most recent report for the state is from 1997.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Known populations occur on state and public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Kemmerer Field Office and Wasatch-Cache National Forest .

References:

Barneby, R.C. 1989. Fabales, Vol. 3 Part B. IN: A. Cronquist, A. H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Fertig, W., L. Welp, and S. Markow. 1998. The status of rare plants in southwest Wyoming. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Isely, D. 1998. Native and Naturalized Leguminosae (Fabaceae) of the United States (exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii). Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, UT.

Refsdal, C.H. 1996. A general floristic inventory of southwest Wyoming and adjacent northeast Utah, 1994-1995. Unpublished report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State

Office, Bureau of Land Management Vernal Supervisor's Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service Region 4 by the University of Wyoming, Rocky Mountain Herbarium, Laramie, WY.

Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

Author: Walter Fertig and Stuart Markow

Updated: 12-10-01