

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Desmodium canadense

Showy Tick-Trefoil



An open spire of bright purple-pink, pea-like flowers above 3-lobed foliage. The largest-flowered of the tick-trefoils. Small, flattened seedpods cling to skin, fur, and clothing. Thrives in wet or dry settings. Can be aggressive.

Suggested companions: long-awned wood grass (*Brachyelytrum erectum*), bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*), big-leaved aster (*Aster macropyllus*), prairie grasses and flowers such as big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.), culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,
by Kitty Kohout

Plant Type: Wildflower

Size: 3-5' H
W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Woodland Margin
Wet Meadow
Open field/ Prairie
Riverbanks
Shrubby Wetland

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Rich Moist
Sandy/ Gravelly
Very Damp/Wet
Clay

Exposure: sun
filtered

Flower Color:

Pink
Purple

Bloom Time:

July
August

Other Attributes:

Plant in:

Groundcover: No