

# Panicled-leaf Tick-trefoil – *Desmodium paniculatum*



Photo: Richard Stromberg



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Photo: Tom Littlejohn



Photo: USDA, NRCS. 2023.

# Panicked-leaf Tick-trefoil – *Desmodium paniculatum*

## Habitat Notes:

Dry to mesic open forests, woodlands, clearings, old fields, and roadsides.

## Species Identification:

- Purple flowers
- Leaves pinnately tri-foliolate; glabrous or sparsely appressed-hairy less than 0.5mm long.
- Leaves long petiolate
- Corolla 6-8mm long; pedicels 3-12mm long
- Height 1.5-4 feet.
- Loment with 3-5 segments, mostly obtuse-angled below. Triangular to subrhombic.

## Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun to part sun (2-6 hours a day)
- Clay-loam, rocky soil
- Well drained soil

## Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: attracts birds and grazing plant for livestock and other mammals.
- Enriches the soil through nitrogen fixation.
- Long-tongued bumblebees collect pollen from the flowers.

## Growing Protocol:

- Seed requires no stratification (A, I, J)
  - Although seeds do not require stratification, it is best to sow them in a medium that is also mixed with a rhizobium inoculum. Genus specific inoculant can be purchased online.
  - It is suggested to remove seeds from their hulls and scarify them like similar legumes.

## Collection Information:

- Hitchhiker seed pods. Ready to collect when brown.
- If necessary, place inflorescence in the bag and cut stems to avoid seeds sticking to you gloves or clothing during collection.
- Do not include seeds found attached to you later as they may be from a variety of species.

## Pests & Disease:

- Japanese beetles are known to feed on the flowers and leaves.
- White mold has been observed on some *Desmodium* species.