

## showy tick trefoil *Desmodium canadense*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

Showy tick trefoil is also known as Canada tick trefoil. This perennial herb has leaves in an alternate arrangement along the stems. Each of these compound leaves has three, long, oval leaflets. The five-petaled, pink, blue or violet flowers develop in clusters at the top of a leafy, hairy stem. Each flower may be one-half inch in length. The fruit is a hairy seedpod. Showy tick trefoil may attain a height of two to six feet.

### BEHAVIORS

Showy tick trefoil may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in thickets, dry to moist prairies and lake edges. Flowers are produced from July through September.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie

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