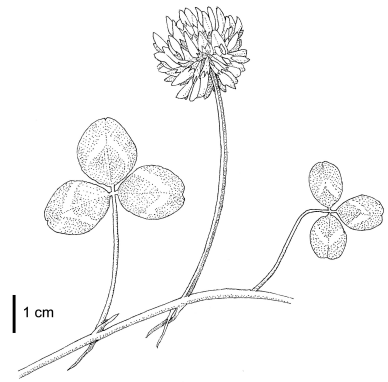


Vicia Linnaeus 1753 (Vetch, Tare)

A genus of about 140 species, from temperate Eurasia and North America. **D:** Annual or perennial herbs. Stems erect, decumbent, climbing, or trailing. Leaves evenly pinnate; terminal leaflets usually modified into tendrils or, occasionally, exerted bristles; leaflets entire, sometimes mucronate, estipellate, ovate to linear; stipules semisagittate. Inflorescences racemes, axillary, in varying arrangements: well pedunculate, with many flowers on a long axis, or having reduced peduncles and 2–10 flowers on axis, or having peduncles and axes obsolescent and 1–4 flowers shortly pedicellate in leaf axils; calyces campanulate, 5-cleft, with the lowermost lobes the longest; corollas papilionaceous, reddish purple to violet or blue to white or yellow; standards with broad claws overlapping wings, with blades obovate to subrotund; wings oblong or narrowly obovate, adherent to and usually surpassing the keel; stamens diadelphous; ovaries sessile or shortly stipitate; styles slender, terete, with trichomes at summit. Legumes flat to terete, oblong, sessile to short-stipitate, dehiscent; seeds 1–several, globose to barrel-shaped. **R:** Isely (1990, 1998); van de Wouw et al. (2003) = Y.



Trifolium repens
Portion of plant, in flower



Trifolium virginicum
Portion of plant, in flower

- 1 Inflorescence nearly sessile, of 1–4 flowers clustered in the leaf axil [nonnative species].
 - 2 Corolla 5–6 mm long; leaves with 4–6(–8) leaflets *V. lathyroides*
 - 2 Corolla 10–30 mm long; leaflets 6–16(–20).
 - 3 Calyx lobes all shorter than the calyx tube; corolla yellow, often streaked with purple, 23–30 mm long *V. grandiflora*
 - 3 Calyx lobes (at least the longer) about as long as the calyx tube; corolla pink, purple, or white, 10–25(–30) mm long.
 - 4 Calyx 7–11(–12) mm long; corolla pink-purple to whitish, 10–18 mm long; leaflets 4–10 × as long as wide *V. sativa* ssp. *nigra*
 - 4 Calyx 10–15 mm long; corolla generally pink-purple, 18–25(–30) mm long; leaflets 2–5(–7) × as long as wide *V. sativa* ssp. *sativa*
- 1 Inflorescence pedunculate, of 2–many flowers along a well-developed raceme [native and nonnative species].
 - 5 Corolla 2.5–8(–10) mm long.
 - 6 Plant an annual.
 - 7 Legume asymmetrically acute at the apex; inflorescence with 1–15 flowers *V. hirsuta*
 - 7 Legume symmetrically rounded at the apex; inflorescence with 1–2(–4) flowers *V. tetrasperma*
 - 6 Plant a rhizomatous perennial.
 - 8 Flowers white to lavender, the keel spotted; legumes 4–5 mm wide; inflorescence not secund *V. caroliniana*
 - 8 Flowers blue-violet or purple; legumes 6–8 mm wide; inflorescence generally secund *V. cracca*
 - 5 Corolla 10–25 mm long.
 - 9 Flowers 15–22(–25) mm long; legumes with a basal stipe 2–5 mm long; leaves with 8–16 leaflets *V. americana* var. *americana*
 - 9 Flowers 8–16(–18) mm long; legumes with a basal stipe 1–3 mm long; leaves with 8–22 leaflets.
 - 10 Calyx swollen on one side; plant an annual; inflorescence secund.
 - 11 Plant glabrate or with pubescence of hairs < 1 mm long; lower calyx lobe lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 1–2(–2.4) mm long *V. villosa* ssp. *varia*
 - 11 Plant conspicuously villous, the hairs 1–2 mm long; lower calyx lobe acicular or weak, 2–4 mm long *V. villosa* ssp. *villosa*
 - 10 Calyx not swollen on one side; plant a rhizomatous perennial; inflorescence secund or not.
 - 12 Flowers white to lavender, the keel spotted; legumes 4–5 mm wide; inflorescence not secund *V. caroliniana*
 - 12 Flowers blue-violet or purple; legumes 6–8 mm wide; inflorescence generally secund *V. cracca*

Vicia americana Willdenow var. *americana*; American Vetch, Purple Vetch. [= C, F, G, I, SE; = *V. americana* ssp. *americana* – K; < *V. americana* – Pa., W, W.Va.] **D:** Perennial. Stems to 1 m, trailing or climbing, glabrous. Leaflets in 4–8 pairs, 1.5–3.5 cm, elliptic or ovate-oblong; numerous lateral veins leaving midrib at 45° angle, branching and anastomosing before margin, tendrils branched, stipules sharply serrate. Racemes distinctly pedunculate, with 2–9 flowers, loose, shorter than subtending leaves; calyces only slightly gibbous at base; tubes oblique; lobes unequal with the lower 1.2–3 mm and lance-attenuate and the others to 1 mm; corollas 1.5–2.5 cm, bluish purple; styles pubescent at summit or all around, not bearded beneath the stigma. Legumes 2.5–3.5 cm. **P:** May–Jun **H:** Dry, shaley or rocky woodlands, forest edges and clearings, riverside prairies and outcrops. **S:** Rare, mountains.