

## Controlling Goatsrue

According to Jack Evans of Utah State University, in Logan Utah, mowing, clipping, cutting, and shallow cultivation are poor means of control. Alternate cropping and row crops will effectively interrupt the goatsrue life cycle. No biocontrol is available at this time.

As for herbicide, 2,4-D + Dicamba has been the standard for controlling goatsrue for many years and offers good results. However, \*tests conducted by the Cache County Weed Department have discovered that either 1.5 oz/Acre Dupont Escort® or 1 oz. Escort® plus 2 qt/ Acre 2,4-D Amine is far more effective. In tests conducted in May 2001, Escort® and Escort® + 2,4-D were applied one time and this one application area is 100% controlled through year-end 2003. Other less favorable sites have shown from 75 - 100% control.

Dupont Telar® also is showing excellent preliminary results on goatsrue.



In 2002, when this ditch was sprayed with 2,4-D + Escort, both banks had similar infestations of goatsrue. This 2003 photo shows very little goatsrue remaining on the left bank.

## For More Information

Cache County Weed Department  
(435) 716-8342  
[cacheweed@yoda.state.ut.us](mailto:cacheweed@yoda.state.ut.us)  
[www.cachecounty.org/offices/weed.html](http://www.cachecounty.org/offices/weed.html)

Utah State University  
Jack Evans  
(435)797-2242

USDA-APHIS  
[www.usda-aphis.gov](http://www.usda-aphis.gov)



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\*These tests are not scientifically accredited.

# Solutions for GOATSRUE

*Galega officinalis*

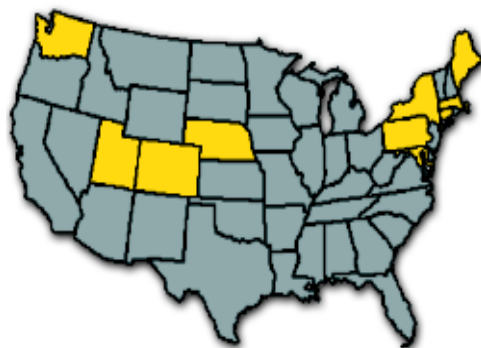


# Goatsrue - From Coast to Coast

## Goatsrue in the U.S.

Goatsrue is a perennial legume, originally found only in central and southern Europe and in western Asia. In 1891, goatsrue was intentionally brought to Utah to be tested as a livestock forage and green manure. After three years of study, scientists at Utah State University determined it to be unpalatable and toxic to livestock.

Goatsrue escaped captivity and spread through the network of irrigation canals and into streams, rivers of the Bear River drainage in central Cache County, Utah. By 1974 goatsrue had spread over nearly 38,000 acres, and was placed on the Cache County Noxious Weed List. In 1981 the USDA and APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection



Service) received funding to eradicate goatsrue nationwide and it was placed on the Federal Noxious Weed List. By 1999 funding for the eradication program had been terminated.

The primary infestation in the U.S. is in Cache County, Utah, but other small infestations of goatsrue have been discovered in Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Washington D.C. These infestations are probably from nurseries selling goatsrue as an ornamental or herb.



## About Goatsrue

Generated by seed, goatsrue actively grows from mid spring until fall frost. It develops a deep taproot and grows from two to four feet tall, but may grow as tall as six feet. Mature leaves have six to ten pairs of odd-pinnate leaflets. Flowers are bluish to purple, pea-like and grow along terminal or axillary racemes from early summer until frost. Each blossom produces a single seedpod that produces from one to nine bean-shaped seeds. Each plant is capable of producing 10 to 15 thousand pods. Seed may remain viable in soil for five to perhaps ten years.

Goatsrue thrives in areas where soil moisture is high such as along waterways, ditch banks, roadsides, irrigated cropland, pastures and marshy areas. Seeds are distributed primarily by water movement but excavation activities also distribute goatsrue to new areas.