

# Hairy or Woolly Vetch, *Vicia villosa*



**Identification:** Hairy, creeping annual. Can grow four to six feet in length. Compound leaves with 10-20 leaflets that are narrowly-lanceolate, with terminal branched tendrils. 2-toned flowers in 1-sided dense clusters, usually red to purple, 20-60 per spike. Fruit a hairless pod containing several hard seeds.

**Habitat:** Roadsides, open forests, disturbed areas, idle land

**Animals Affected:** Cattle and occasionally horses

**Toxin Family:** Unknown

**Other:** Causes sporadic poisoning of adult cattle and occasionally horses. Symptoms include dermatitis causing itchy lesions, weight loss, conjunctivitis (pink-eye) and diarrhea. Abortion and red urine have also been noted.