

California Phenology Project:
species profile for
Silky Beach Pea
(*Lathyrus littoralis*)



CPP site(s) where this species is monitored: Redwood National Park



Photo credit: Gordon Leppig & Andrea J. Pickart

What does this species look like?

This species is a perennial herb with silky grey woolly leaves. The leaves have 4 to 8 small overlapping leaflets. The purple-pink and white flowers have prominent delicate venation. Flowers are found in tight clusters of 4 to 8 and are 15 to 18 millimeters wide. The fruit is an oval hairy pea-like pod.

When monitoring this species, use the USA-NPN **forbs** datasheet.

Species facts!

- The CPP four letter code for this species is **LALI**.
- A member of the legume, or pea family.
- The genus *Lathyrus* is large, with approximately 160 species, and found all over the globe.
- The species name, *littoralis*, is from Latin, meaning "of the seashore".
- Has nitrogen fixing nodules on its roots.
- Primarily pollinated by honeybees and bumblebees.

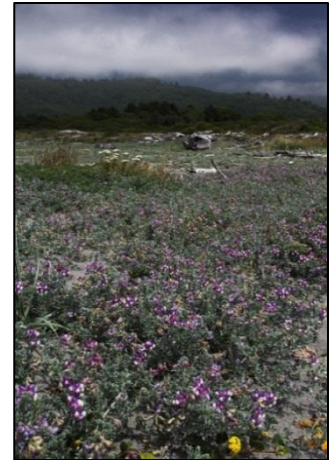


Photo credit: Brian Haggerty



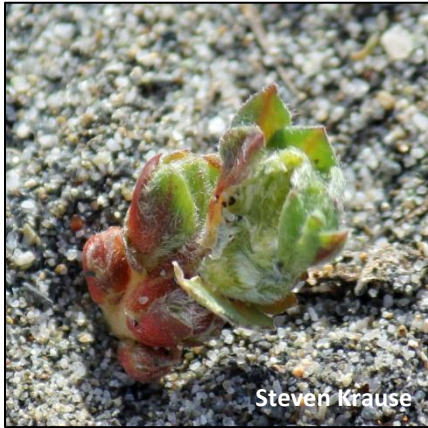
Photo credit: David Hoffman (Flickr)

Where is this species found?

- Found on beaches and open coastal dunes.
- It is distributed along the coastline from California to British Columbia.
- Occurs at elevations less than 5 meters.

For more information about phenology and the California Phenology Project (CPP), please visit the CPP website (www.usanpn.org/cpp) and the USA-NPN website (www.usanpn.org)

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Steven Krause

Initial growth



Brian Haggerty

Leaves

Each leaf is divided into smaller leaflets.



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Flowers or flower buds

When monitoring **flower or flower bud abundance** for this species, count each inflorescence as a single flowering structure! For example, if there are two inflorescences with many flowers or buds each, then abundance should be recorded as <3.

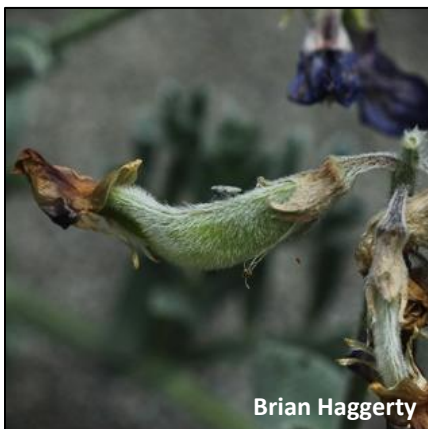


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Open flowers

The anthers and stigmas are enclosed by the folded petals, so it can be difficult to see the reproductive parts in the open flowers of this species. **Proportion of open flowers** should be recorded at the scale of individual flowers, not inflorescences (i.e. count the individual flowers)!

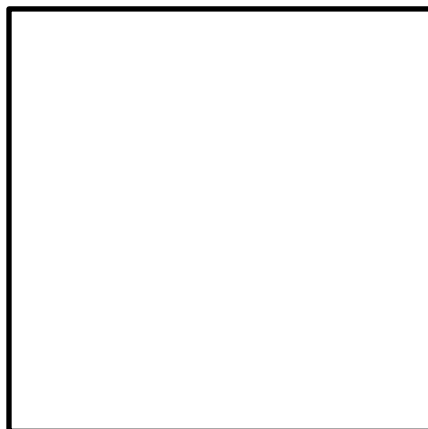
Note: flower phenophases are nested; if you record **Y** for "open flowers" you should also record **Y** for "flowers or flower buds"



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Fruits

A fruit is a hairy pod that changes from green to tan, light brown or light reddish brown, and then splits open when ripe.



Ripe fruits

The fruit is ripe when it is dry and splits open.

Note: fruit phenophases are nested; if you record **Y** for "ripe fruits" you should also record **Y** to "fruits"

Phenophases not pictured: **Recent fruit or seed drop**