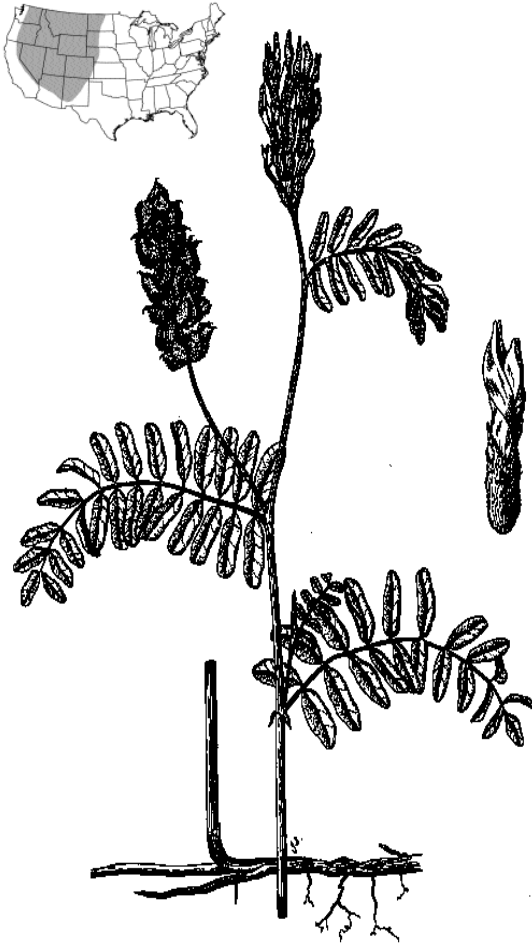


CICER MILKVETCH

Astragalus cicer



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from Eurasia. A spreading, warm season, herbaceous, perennial legume. Stems large, succulent, decumbent, usually less than 3' tall. Vigorous, creeping rhizomes and a short tap root. Leaves 4 to 8" long, odd-pinnate, with 21 to 27 leaflets. Inflorescence a contracted raceme with 15 to 60 pea-like pale yellow to white flowers.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Grows in moist grasslands, open woodlands, flood drainage, and meadows. Well adapted to all soil textures from clays to sands but best performance on loam to sandy loam soils derived from limestone. Better performance than alfalfa

on thin foothill soils and on wet and higher altitude sites. Tolerant of weakly acidic to alkaline soils. Reported on wet sites with pH of 9.8. Tolerant of sub-irrigation with water tables within 3' of surface. Established stands show good drought tolerance but seedlings are more sensitive. Generally need 15" ppt. or light irrigation. Good winter hardiness. Thrives at 10,000' elevation.

CULTURE

Drill seed 1/2 – 3/4" deep in a well prepared, firm seedbed. Use 6 to 12 lbs. PLS per acre for drill seedings and 5 lbs. PLS per acre for mixtures with grass. Double the rate for critical area stabilization and for harsh sites. Scarify seed just before planting unless fall seeded. However, scarified seeds lose viability quickly in storage. Inoculate seed just before seeding. Plant early spring or late fall and can plant later spring with irrigation. Seedling vigor rates good with irrigation but only fair under dryland conditions due to slow rate of growth. Control weeds and withhold grazing on seedling stands.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Recommended for high elevation meadows, irrigated pastures, hay and lower dryland areas. Use in grass mixtures for stabilizing critical areas (pond or canal banks, spillways, road cuts and fills, mine spoils) and as erosion control cover crop. Palatable to livestock, elk, deer, and antelope. Somewhat less palatable than alfalfa but non-bloating, nontoxic and N-fixation. Starts growth about 2 weeks later than alfalfa. Good summer and fair amount of fall regrowth with available moisture. Irrigated stands may attain mature growth second year. Dryland seedlings may take 3 years to develop full stands.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Lutana' released from Wyoming and Montana.
'Monarch' released from Colorado.

PawneeButtesSeedInc.

PawneeButtesSeed.com 1-800-782-5947