

Crown vetch look alikes

Crown vetch (*Securigera varia*) may be confused with the many native vetches- *Astragalus* species, *Lathyrus* species, and *Vicia* species. All are members of the *Fabaceae* family, with pinnately compound leaves and pea-like flowers.



CROWN VETCH has up to 25 leaflets per leaf; leaflets rounded at both ends, often with a small point at the tip; hairless
No tendrils.

Pink flowers grow in **crown-shaped clusters** of up to 25 flowers.

Fruits appear as a **fingerlike cluster of slender pods.**

OTHER VETCH SPECIES are distinct from crown vetch based on a combination of:

- leaflet shape, size, number, and hairiness;
- flower color and cluster shape- most other vetches have solitary flowers or elongated clusters
- Fruit shape- no other vetches have pods as slender and fingerlike as crown vetch

LATHYRUS and **VICIA** species have tendrils at the end of leaf stems



American vetch (*Vicia americana*) has elongated clusters of flowers and leaves with tendrils at the tips.