

## CURTISS'S HOARY-PEA

*Tephrosia curtissii* (Small ex Rydberg)

Shinners

**Synonyms:** *Tephrosia angustissima* Shuttlw.

ex Chapman var. *curtissii* (Small ex Rydb.)

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**Family:** Fabaceae (pea)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



No Image  
Available

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with straggling or arching **stems**, 20 - 81 cm long. **Leaves** compound with 4 - 18 opposite leaflets, 1.5 - 4 cm. **Leaflets** 2 - 8 times longer than wide, with broader leaves having reticulate venation between ascending lateral nerves. **Stipule:** 1 - 3 mm long. **Flower** tiny, 0.6 - 1 cm long, white to dark pink, typically pea-shaped with a large erect banner petal, with a hairless style (visible with magnification). Flowering in Fall. **Fruit** an oblong, flat pod, 3 - 15 cm long. Plant minutely strigose.

**Similar Species:** Formerly a variety of narrowleaf hoary-pea (*Tephrosia angustissima*), Curtiss's hoary-pea (*Tephrosia curtissii*) has shorter stipules 1 - 3 mm long, as opposed to seminole hoary-pea (*Tephrosia seminole*) which has stipules 4 - 8 mm long. Additionally, Curtiss's hoary-pea flowers in the fall, unlike seminole hoary-pea which flowers in the spring. The leaflets of both are much wider (4 - 8 times long as wide) than narrowleaf hoary-pea (10 - 20 times long as wide).

## Curtiss's hoary-pea

*Tephrosia curtissii*

**Related Rare Species:** Both former varieties of narrowleaf hoary-pea (*Tephrosia angustissima*), Curtiss's hoary-pea (*Tephrosia curtissii*) and seminole hoary-pea (*Tephrosia seminole*) are relatively rare.

**Habitat:** Coastal strands, rarely inland.

**Best Survey Season:** Fall.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to FL. Known from Volusia, Brevard, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Indian River, Broward, and Martin County.

**Conservation Status:** There are very few populations of Curtiss's hoary-pea.

**Protection and Management:** Protect coastal habitats from development. Re-introduce plants to historic sites. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

**References:** Weakley, A.S., and Southeastern Flora Team 2024. Wunderlin 2011.