

# *Astragalus danicus* Retz.

Purple Milk-vetch

Key:

**Dots** refer to the native sites of the species

**Numbers** refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



## Starting references

### Family

Fabaceae

### IUCN category (2001)

Endangered

### Habit

Perennial herb.

### Habitat

Short unimproved turf on well-drained calcareous soils, predominantly on chalk and limestone. Also on sand dunes and machair. In Scotland, it grows on Old Red Sandstone sea-cliffs and on mica-schist. 0-710 m.

### Reasons for decline

Agricultural improvement or lack of grazing.

### Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km <sup>2</sup> occurrences)	Population (plants)
Scotland	East Ross	6	
	Sutherland	5	
	Aberdeenshire	3	
	Banffshire	2	
	Moray	3	
	Kincardineshire	3	
	Berwickshire	5	
	Lothian	10	
	Fife & Kinross	10	
	Mid & East Perth	7	
	Kirkcudbrightshire	1	
	Wigtownshire	1	
England	Isle of Man	3	
	Yorkshire	9	
	Co Durham	4	
	S.Northumberland & Cheviot	10	
	N. & S. Lincolnshire	10	
	Leicestershire	2	
	Northamptonshire	2	
	Suffolk & Norfolk	10	
	Cambridgeshire	5	
	Bedfordshire	2	
	Hertfordshire	2	
	Oxfordshire	1	
	Gloucestershire	3	
S. Wiltshire	3		

## Ex situ Collections

### Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Inverewe Garden (NTS)
- 2 Cruickshank Botanic Garden
- 3 University of Dundee Botanic Garden
- 4 St Andrews Botanic Garden
- 5 RBG Edinburgh
- 6 Moor Bank Garden
- 7 University of Durham Botanic Garden

- 8 University of Hull Botanic & Experimental Garden
- 9 Cambridge University Botanic Garden
- 10 University of Oxford Botanic Garden
- 11 Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 12 University of Bristol Botanic Garden
- 13 Logan Botanic Garden

**Gardens with specialisation on family Fabaceae**

None

**Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections**

From RBG Edinburgh, Alpine nursery

- Propagation

Seed - are sown in September, in plastic pot containing 3:1 JI seed compost (sieved or lump-free)/fine grit and top-dressed only with fine grit. Bottom water the pot until it's completely damp, then keep in a north-facing cold frame, closed at night and open the day until germination.

When seed germinate, the pot is moved into a cold glasshouse for the seedlings to grow large enough to be pricked out. Seedlings are pricked out the following spring in individual pot, in a standard mix containing 2:1:2 JI II/sieved leaf mould/coarse grit. The pots are placed in the cold glasshouse and get additional light during short, dull days. Later, the plants will be transferred in a cold frame open during day time and closed at night, for hardening-off.

The plants get a monthly supplementary feeding regime of half the recommended amount of *Miracle-Gro*.

***Conservation information***

**Linkages to BAPs**

56 designated LBAP Areas sites with observations for *Astragalus danicus* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net/speciesInfo/>

**Habitat Management**

Protected sites with records for *Astragalus danicus* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net/speciesInfo/>

**Conservation programmes**

Unknown

**Web References**

- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net/speciesInfo/>
- Wild plants of the British Isles A photographic record of a field botanist's annual hunt for British Wild Plants:  
[http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web\\_pages/astragalus\\_danicus\\_purple\\_milk\\_vetch.htm](http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/astragalus_danicus_purple_milk_vetch.htm)