



Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale

***Desmodium canadense* – Canada Tick-Trefoil**

COMMON NAME: Canada Tick-Trefoil, Showy Tick-Trefoil

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Desmodium canadense* with *desmodium* from Greek meaning bond or chain, referring to the seedpod joints

FLOWER: Blue-violet, quickly fading to blue. Individual stalked blossoms, less than ½ inch long, arranged in a dense, branched cluster.

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to August, early September

SIZE: Three to six feet tall

BEHAVIOR: The pea-pod like fruits are segmented and break into several pieces when touched after they mature. Each segment is a “stick-tight” that can adhere to the fur of an animal or clothing of a human making this a good method of seed dispersal.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows best in oak savannas and woodland borders with moderate moisture, moderate shade and good soil. Found along stream banks and often along roadsides and railroads.

NATURAL RANGE: From Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan, south to Maryland and Oklahoma. In Wisconsin the range is widespread except for the Northern Highlands.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Has deep roots and shade tolerant leaves so it competes well with native grasses. Like most legumes tick-trefoil adds nitrogen to the soil. Attracts birds, bumblebees and small mammals.

SUGGESTED CARE: This plant should do very well in most southern Wisconsin gardens with moderate moisture and moderate light. It may be subject to powdery mildew.

COMPANION PLANTS: Maidenhair fern, hog peanut, wood anemone, spikenard, Jack-in-the-pulpit, wild strawberry