



## ***Astragalus canadensis* – Canada Milk Vetch**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Astragalus* comes from the Greek *astragalos* meaning “ankle bone” probably because of the shape of the seeds. It could also mean “star” or “milk.”

**FLOWER:** Pagoda like stalk about 7-11 inches long with many tubular cream colored flowers about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Each of the tubular flowers has five petals and curves slightly upward. No scent.

**BLOOMING PERIOD:** July to August

**SIZE:** 1 to 4 ft tall stems, usually with several branches.

**BEHAVIOR:** Common nectar source for bumblebees and honeybees, food for deer, wild turkeys, rabbits and groundhogs.

**SITE REQUIREMENTS:** Full to partial sun, moderate to dry moisture. It is found in prairies, woods, or shores in sandy, loamy soil.

**NATURAL RANGE:** Found throughout the U.S. except for Arizona and New England. Also in Canada except for the far eastern region.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Leaves are alternate and compound, about 5-9 inches long. Both leaves and seed pods add interest to a garden. This plant is useful for fixing nitrogen.

**SUGGESTED CARE:** Once established not much care is needed. This plant is drought tolerant.