Identification Guide for
Weeds in Cranberries
This guide unites high-quality photographs with detailed text descriptions for 144 weeds commonly found throughout the North American cranberry growing regions. It contains nearly 1,000 photographs that illustrate botanical characteristics of weed species at different stages of development, highlighting distinctive morphological traits. Proper weed identification with this easy-to-use guide will encourage the use of integrated weed management (IWM) strategies for those working in cranberries, low-bush blueberries, or other wetlands environments.

- Descriptions of "Similar Species" are provided to aid in correct identification.
- The "Features Key" helps to narrow down the identity of an unknown plant to a few possible species.
- "Priority Ratings", important for IWM planning and implementation, gauge the impact of each weed and its potential to colonize and reproduce.
- Habitat preferences are described for each species, along with suggested nonchemical management methods to prevent early establishment and expansion.

This guide is an essential tool for growers, pest management specialists, technical support personnel, and students who want to improve their weed identification skills.
Garden vetch

Other common names: narrowleaf vetch — Vicia sativa ssp. nigra (=V. angustifolia) — Fabaceae

Introduced species in all regions. Annual plant or vine. Blooms in spring—fall.

Botanical description: leaves are alternate, pinnately compound with a terminal leaflet modified into a twining tendril. Leaflets have entire margins, linear to narrowly elliptical 0.6 to 1.2" (1.5 to 3 cm) long with 3 to 5 pairs per leaf. Plant height is 6 to 40" (15 to 100 cm). Flowers (irregular) are typically arranged in a spiral around an axis, blue to purple or occasionally white. Fruit are pods that are 1.5" (4 cm) long and dark brown to blackish at maturity.

Favorable growing conditions: found in many types of environments including sandy and gravelly soils.

Prevention and suppression: maintain a healthy cranberry canopy.

Similar species: winter vetch (V. villosa; not described) is a summer or winter annual or biennial, has hairy stems and leaves are narrowly oblong. It has 5 to 10 pairs per leaf. Flowers are reddish-purple and pods are shorter (2 to 3 cm). See bird vetch (p. 96). Common vetch (V. sativa; not described) has light brown pods.