



Sophora tomentosa Varieties and Hybridization

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Sophora tomentosa

The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) promotes the use of native plants within their native ranges. In some cases nonnative varieties or forms of a native species may be in cultivation in our area. We recommend against their use; they are inappropriate for use in ecological restoration projects. In some cases this specific nonnative variety or form may hybridize with the native variety; this document outlines the differences between the native, hybrid and nonnative variety.

Native *S. tomentosa* var. *truncata* is distinguished from the non-native var. *occidentalis* by having leaflets that are glabrous or finely pubescent on the lower surface at maturity versus densely tomentulose ([Flora of the Southeastern United States](#)). Variety *truncata* can also be distinguished by hairs up to 0.2 mm in length, versus var. *occidentalis* that has hairs up to 0.5 mm in length ([Atlas of Florida Plants](#).)

The native var. *truncata* is hybridizing with the non-native var. *occidentalis*. Hybrid plants often appear to be the native var. *truncata* when young, with glabrous mature leaves, and develop the pubescent mature leaves as the plant ages. Hybrids will exhibit a combination of short hairs and at least some scattered hairs longer than 0.2 mm.

For more information see [FISF](#) and IRC's [Natives For Your Neighborhood](#) tools.

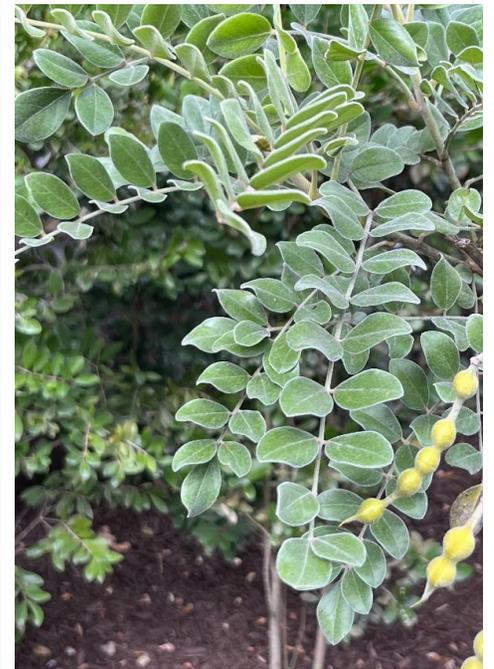
	<i>S. tomentosa</i> var. <i>truncata</i>	Hybrid of <i>S. tomentosa</i> var. <i>truncata</i> and var. <i>occidentalis</i>	<i>S. tomentosa</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>
Plant	 <p data-bbox="394 958 556 982">Melinda Ogden</p>	 <p data-bbox="913 958 1008 982">Liz Dutra</p>	 <p data-bbox="1455 958 1638 982">Patrick Fitzgerald</p>



Melinda Ogden



Liz Dutra



Patrick Fitzgerald

Young leaves



Melinda Ogden



Melinda Ogden



Melinda Ogden

Mature leaves



Melinda Ogden



James Lange



Melinda Ogden