

TREES AND PLANTS

SENSITIVE JOINT-VETCH

ABOUT

Sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeschynomene virginica*) is named as such because its leaves fold slightly when touched. It inhabits freshwater tidal marshes along the mid-Atlantic coast. It is a robust, annual herb in the pea family and grows up to 6 feet (2 meters) in height. 30-56 slightly hairy leaflets are placed alternately along the stem. Flowers are yellow with prominent red veins and appear in late July flowering into autumn.

They produce fruit, which are segmented pods 2.3 inches (6 cm) long.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are only 24 populations left in New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia and the species is severely threatened. Some of the reasons for its decline are road, residential, commercial and industrial development, as well as water pollution, shoreline erosion and motorboat traffic. The rapidly growing human population along the mid-Atlantic coast is also causing problems because of the increased human water consumption in watershed areas.

For more information visit: www.centerforplantconservation.org

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What plant family does the Sensitive joint-vetch belong to?

- a. Herb
- b. Pea
- c. Bromeliad
- d. Root vegetable

The correct answer is B.

