

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Phenology: flowering/fruiting period, mid-March to mid-May.

Management Responsibility: USFS (Tonto NF).

Similar Species: differentiated from the typical variety, near Prescott and Ashfork, by the larger size of the elongated peduncle, larger corolla, fruits, and leaflet and the more compact growth habit with shorter internodes.

Notes: the edaphic island on which the rare Horseshoe lotus grows does not support Sonoran Desert dominants such as creosote bush and foothill palo verde which allows it an ecological opening; occurs with other rare plants such as *Purshia subintegra* and *Eriogonum ripleyi*.

References: Anderson, 1996. Isely, 1981.



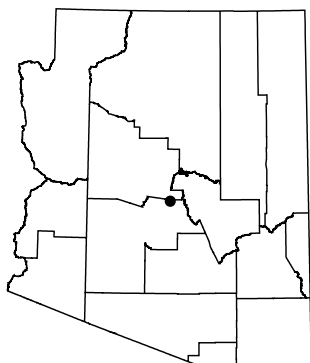
John Anderson/BLM

Lotus mearnsii
var. *equisolensis*

Habitat: soil endemic
on late Tertiary
lacustrine deposits
of interbedded white
limestone and ash
flows within the
Sonoran desert at
2,100 ft (640 m)
elevation.



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Range: known only from the
Horseshoe Reservoir area along the
lower Verde River.