



Pictures-ISU Extension



Grassland Invasives, Processing Weed Complaints on CRP

PRESENTERS:

- Matt Allen
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- Curt Goettsch,
 - Iowa FSA-Chief Agricultural Program Specialist – Conservation & Compliance Department

AGENDA:



Common Grassland Invasives



CRP Program Overview



CRP Status Reviews



CRP Policy

-Requirement to maintain cover



Processing Weed Complaints

-What to Expect



Questions

GRASSLAND INVASIVE SPECIES

NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE SPECIES:

- Grow and thrive in many different conditions (e.g., soils, moisture regimes, habitats, etc.)
- Often form dense stands, shade, out compete, and displace native vegetation or desirable species.
 - Threaten biodiversity, lessen grassland value for wildlife, livestock, ag. production, etc.
 - Sometimes toxic to livestock or harmful to people

What can help?

- Well managed and diverse grasslands
- Early detection, multifaceted management approach, and follow up



Photo: Purdue University

Non-native

Perennial

Grows by seed & rhizomes

- Spread 10' in 1 years, new shoots every 6" (per Hawkeye CWMA)

Mowing + herbicide

Best treatment is fall herbicide application

Typically found in patches

Will require multiple treatments for a few years

Plant ID

Height-1.5-4'

Spiney Irregularly lobed leaves

Flower (<1") range pink-purple (sometimes white)

Bloom: June-October

* First weed declared noxious in US-Vermont 1795 (Per: ISU Extension)

CANADA THISTLE



Pictures (3)-ISU Extension

Black Hawk County Conservation Board

Non-native

Biennial

Produce up to 10,000 seeds per plant (germ. Rate 95%)

Mowing (late spring-Summer) + herbicide (fall)

Musk thistle weevil used for biological control

Largest thistle in Iowa

Plant ID

Height- up to 7'

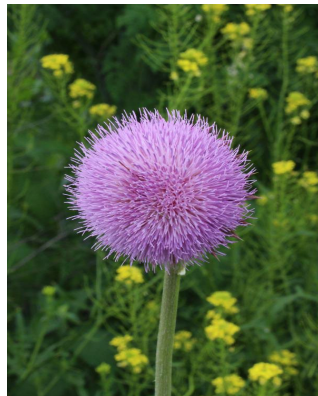
Deeply lobed spiny leaves

Bloom: May-August

Purple Flower (1.5-3")

Nodding flower heads

MUSK THISTLE



Pictures (6)-ISU Extension

Iowa has 6 native thistles

2019, native thistles no longer considered Class B noxious weeds

Not aggressive—do not degrade ecosystem

Birds and pollinators use the seeds, nectar, & pollen

Look for the whiteish underside of the leaf

All non-native thistles in genera *Cirsium* and *Carduus* require control

**COMMON IOWA NATIVE THISTLES

Field thistle (*Cirsium discolor*)

Abundance: Common

Life Cycle: Biennial, sometimes perennial

Habitat: Open woodlands, roadsides, disturbed sites

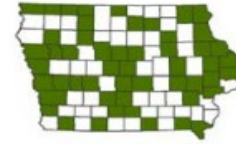
Soil moisture: Mesic to dry

Height: 3 - 6 ft.

Leaves: Often deeply lobed more than halfway to the center of the leaf, leaf margins curl downward; underside with dense, pale felt-like hairs

Stems: Bristly hairs to hairless, single flower head

Bloom: Mid August to mid September; purple - pale pink to white, 1.5 - 2 in. wide flower heads with spines similar to tall thistle, white stripes resemble fish scales



Pictures (2)-A Guide To Iowa's Native Thistles

Tall thistle (*Cirsium altissimum*)

Abundance: Common

Life Cycle: Biennial to short-lived perennial (only flowering once)

Habitat: Pastures, open woodlands, roadsides, remnants

Soil moisture: Mesic to wet - mesic

Height: 3 - 10 ft.

Leaves: Unlobed, coarsely toothed or shallow-lobed, leaf margin spines; underside with dense, pale felt-like hairs

Stems: Sparsely to moderately hairy with long, soft hairs

Bloom: July to September; pink - purple, 1 - 2 in. wide; flower heads with needle-like spines sticking straight out



LEAFY SPURGE

Non-native

Perennial

Reproduce by seed (explode open in July) and rhizomes

Biological Control-Flea beetles

Multiple-well timed herbicide applications (June, Early-mid September)

Poisonous to cattle

Early detection is key!

Plant ID

Milky Sap

Height- up to 3'

Alternately arranged leaves, up to 4," smooth margins

-Leaves red in the fall

Yellow-green bracts surround flower

Bloom: June-Fall



Pictures (3)-ISU Extension



COMMON & CUTLEAF TEASEL

Non-native

Biennial

Reproduction is by seeds
~2000 seeds per stalk

Early spring or late fall
herbicide application to
rosettes

Multiple mowing's before seed
set

Rx fire + herbicide can be
effective

Plant ID

Height-up to 7'

Egg-shaped flower head

Common-Wrinkly leaves;
Purple flower

Cutleaf-flatter, deeply lobed
leaves; White flower

Bloom: June-October



Pictures (3)-ISU Extension

OTHER INVADERS

Sericea lespedeza

Non-Native

Perennial

Reproducing by seed

Seeds may lay dormant for 20+ years

Fire stimulates seed germination

Fire, mowing, and herbicide control are all common methods

Spreads very quickly

Plant ID

Height-2-5'

Densely leaved stems,

Trifoliolate leaves, oblong sharp point, ¼-1"

Flower is white

Bloom: July-October



OTHER INVADERS

Wild Parsnip

Non-Native

Biennial

Reproduced by seed

Mowing, and/or herbicide control are common methods

Toxin causes Phytophotodermatitis, UV light causes blistering & scarring. Be careful!

Plant ID

Height-2-5'

Leaves are alternate with jagged teeth

Small yellow flowers at the tops of stems

Bloom: May-July



OTHER INVADERS

Non-native cool
season grass

Perennial

Grows by rhizomes

Treatment is through
prescribed fire,
chemical treatment
and/or mowing with
chemical treatment

RCG-Very difficult to
control!

May take multiple
treatments for a few
years to set back

Smooth Brome



Reed canary grass



Sarah Nizzi



**USDA
CONSERVATION RESERVE
PROGRAM (CRP)**



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

Created in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Thanks to voluntary participation by farmers and landowners, CRP has achieved significant goals in conservation and sustainability.

Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length.

The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

While technical support for CRP is provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and conservation partners.

Current Enrollment In Iowa:

Contracts: 103,710

Acreage Under Contract: 1,678,465 acres

CRP STATUS REVIEWS

NRCS will review each CRP contract a minimum of 3 times throughout the contract.

- **Review 1:** Before cost share is issued NRCS will certify that the **practice has been installed according to practice standards.**
- **Review 2:** Year 4 NRCS will complete a status review to ensure the practice has **established correctly.** NRCS will record findings on a status review form and consult with FSA.
- **Review 3:** Second to last year, NRCS will complete a status review to ensure the practice has been **maintained correctly.** NRCS will record findings on a status review form and consult with FSA.

CRP STATUS REVIEW WORKSHEET

Results and Follow up:

<u>Results (Based on joint discussion between FSA County Executive Director and NRCS District Conservationist)</u>	<u>Fields</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation plan is being applied. Continue normal maintenance.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Minor maintenance needs observed. NRCS will offer technical assistance.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrective maintenance required. Status review results will be forwarded to County Office Committee.	
FSA County Executive Director: <input type="text"/>	Date: <input type="text"/>

Opportunity to provide technical assistance

- Identifying concerns before they become maintenance issues
- Discuss importance of good establishment & management practices
- Create plans to manage noxious weeds

REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CRP APPROVED COVER

- **Code of Federal Regulations** -Title 7: Agriculture PART 1410—CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
- **7-CFR § 1410.20 Obligations of participant.** (a) All participants subject to a CRP contract must agree to:
 - **(1) Carry out the terms and conditions of such CRP contract;**
 - **(2) Implement the conservation plan,** which is part of such contract, in accordance with the schedule of dates included in such conservation plan...
 - **(6) Establish and maintain the required vegetative cover...**
 - **(7) Comply with noxious weed laws** of the applicable State or local jurisdiction on such land...
 - **(8) Control on land subject to such contract all weeds,** insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover as necessary or may be specified in the CRP conservation plan and to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land, taking into consideration water quality, wildlife, and other needs...

REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CRP APPROVED COVER

- **2-CRP (Rev. 5) Paragraph 426: Establishing Approved Cover**
- **2-CRP (Rev. 5) Paragraph 427: Maintaining Approved Cover**
 - **Sub-Paragraph 427A: Practice Maintenance**
 - CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility. Participants shall maintain practices, according to the conservation plan and this paragraph, without additional C/S assistance. The maximum payment rate calculation considers the cost of maintenance, if applicable, for the participant throughout the CRP-1 period.
 - NRCS or TSP shall work with participants to plan appropriate maintenance practices, such as mowing, spraying, or prescribed burning in a logical and practical manner. All practices necessary for the successful establishment and maintenance of the approved cover shall be included in the conservation plan and agreed to by the participant.

REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CRP APPROVED COVER

- **2-CRP (Rev. 6) Subparagraph 427A,**
- **7-CFR 1410.20 and 7-CFR 1410.22.**
- When a violation for failure to maintain the approved cover is found at any time during the contract period, FSA will proceed according to the CRP Policy Handbook (2-CRP (Rev. 6)).
- A violation may be found in many ways including but not limited to; compliance spot checks, spot checks due to a whistleblower complaint, NRCS status reviews and/or NRCS field reviews completed as part of a re-enrollment offer.

REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CRP APPROVED COVER

- **Important:** When FSA is made aware of a **possible** violation immediate action is required. FSA (CED) will send a letter to the participants asking for an explanation of the issue. The participant must provide a written explanation or request to meet with County FSA Committee (COC) within 15 calendar days of notification.

REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CRP APPROVED COVER

- **2-CRP (Rev. 6) Subparagraph 427A**
- **Spot Treatment Outside the Primary Nesting Season (May 15 – August 1)**
- In accordance with 2-CRP (Rev. 6) Paragraph 427, all weed control on land under CRP contract shall be spot treatments and shall be conducted outside the primary nesting season. The spot treatment (mowing and/or spraying) is limited to the affected areas of the field. Annual mowing of all acres of CRP for generic weed control is prohibited. Periodic mowing and mowing for cosmetic purposes are always prohibited.

REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CRP APPROVED COVER

2-CRP (Rev. 6) Subparagraph 427A

Spot Treatment During the Primary Nesting Season (May 15 – August 1)

Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if all the following are met:

- if untreated, the weeds, insects, or undesirable species would adversely impact the approved cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area.
- COC or CED, in consultation with NRCS or TSP, determines such activity is needed to maintain the approved cover
 - **Note:** CRP participants must receive COC or CED approval before beginning spot treatment of acreage.
- the spot treatment is limited to the affected areas of the field.

IOWA CODE
CHAPTER 317

317.14A Special requirements for the control or elimination of Palmer amaranth on conservation reserve program land.

- The program for weed control established pursuant to section 317.13, and any order issued under that program, shall not apply to the control or elimination of Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) on land enrolled in the conservation reserve program as described in 7 C.F.R. pt. 1410, unless the control or elimination measures comply with the conservation reserve program requirements for that land including contract requirements. The board of supervisors in adopting the program for weed control, or the commissioner in administering the program, shall seek cooperation with the **United States Department of Agriculture, which may include the department's Farm Service Agency office for that county, the farm service agency's state office, or any other office or official designated by the department.**

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WORKING WITH THE USDA

A violation on CRP may be found in many ways including but not limited to; compliance spot checks, spot checks **due to a whistleblower complaint**, NRCS status reviews and/or NRCS field reviews completed as part of a re-enrollment offer.

- **Whistleblower Complaint**

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WORKING WITH THE USDA

- **Whistleblower Complaint comes into the office. (mail, phone call, email, etc.)**
- FSA would work closely with NRCS, one or both agencies will make a field visit and conduct a review of the complaint.
- If the issue is technical in nature NRCS will take the lead on status reviews.
- If the review finds that there is a possible violation, FSA will send the CRP participant a letter, the participant must respond within 15 days.

USDA COUNTY OFFICE STRUCTURE

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- **County Executive Director (CED)**
 - Program Technician (PT)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

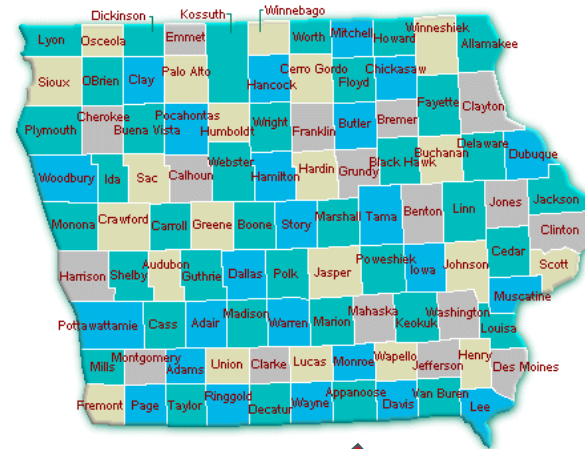
- **District Conservationist (DC)**
 - Soil Conservationist (SC)
 - Other local staff and Partners

USDA Service Center Locator



Iowa Counties

Click on the map to select a county



Serving WARREN County, Iowa

*USDA
COUNTY
OFFICE
CONTACTS*

INDIANOLA SERVICE CENTER

909 E 2ND AVE
INDIANOLA, IA 50125-2892
(515) 961-2587
(855) 211-4010 fax

-  [Street Map](#)
-  [Driving Directions](#)
-  [Mailing Address](#)

[Farm Service Agency](#)
[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
[Rural Development \(Area Office\)](#)
[Conservation District](#)

PROCESS REVIEW

- Issue discovered
- County staff contacts FSA staff
- FSA works with NRCS
- FSA or NRCS or both make field visit
- Findings are documented
- If findings are adverse, FSA contacts participant.
- Participant meets with FSA County Committee
- County Committee make determination

PROCESS REVIEW

- **If they are** actively maintaining and willing to take action to address the weed control.
 - Participant shall work closely with NRCS/TSP to develop a treatment plan.
 - A treatment plan may or may not be a formal document, however the COC will need to document all spot treatments during PNS in the COC minutes.
 - Plan status reviews to track weed treatments.

QUESTIONS

- In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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