



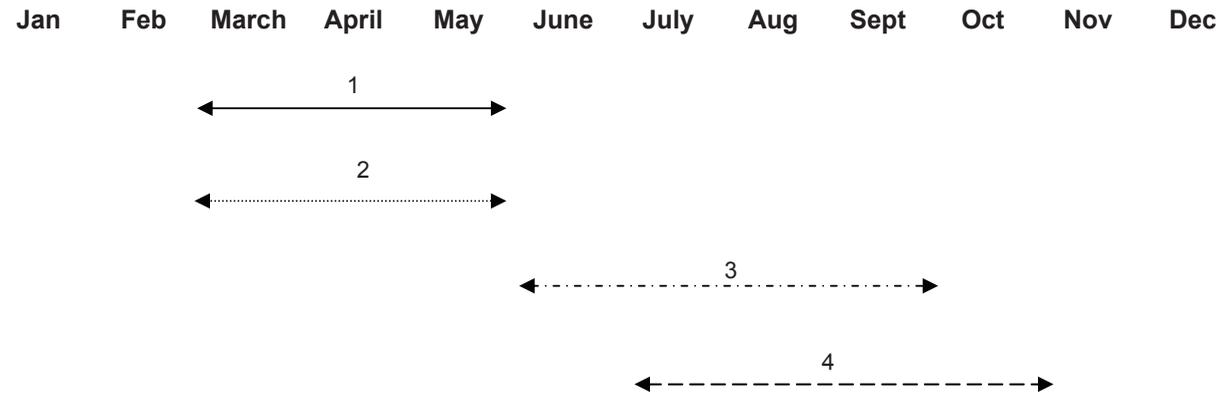
Foliage



Flowers



Seeds



Management Techniques

1. (Spring) Prescribed burn. Fire alone isn't enough to stop this invader. A spring burn causes the seed to germinate, and following up with herbicides is what will kill the plant. *This should be followed with technique 2, 3, or 4.*
2. (Spring) Hand pulling. This works best when the soil is moist and in areas without dense populations. Be sure to remove the entire root system. Check for re-sprouting.
3. (June– September) Herbicide. Apply triclopyr (2 pints per acre) in June or July. Then apply a 1% metsulfuron-methyl plus a surfactant solution in August or September. The plant must be actively growing in order for herbicide application to be effective.
4. (July– end of growing season) Mowing. Mow the plant before it flowers. This can help decrease or slow seed production. The plants should be mowed every time they reach 12 to 18 inches. It is most effective to follow up with mowing late in the growing season. Repeat for at least 3 consecutive years.

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.HawkeyeCWMA.org>

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABELS.

Proper training for prescribed fires is highly recommended.

Basic training can be found online at <http://training.nwcg.gov/courses/s130.html> and <http://training.nwcg.gov/courses/s190.html>

Related Websites:

<http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/invasive.html>
<http://plants.usda.gov>
www.invasivespecies.gov
www.nps.gov/plants/alien

Credits:

Photographs: Chris Evans, River to River CWMA; James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service; Dan Tenaglia, missouriplants.com; Steve Hurst, USDA NRCS PLANTS Database; William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International; www.bugwood.org; www.mobot.org; prairiemoon.com

Brochure Created By: Karen Clauson

Last updated: 2/14/2011



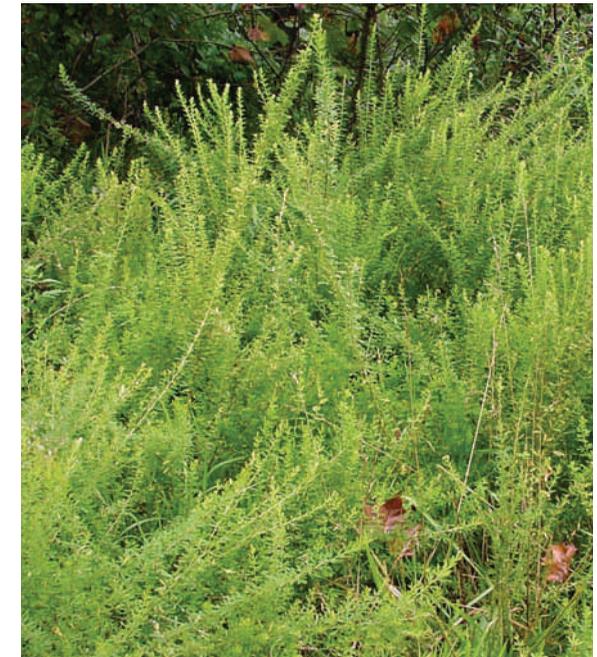
The Hawkeye Cooperative Weed Management Area (HCWMA) is a collective group of county, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and community associations who have come together to **combat the invasive species problem in Eastern Iowa**. The HCWMA serves Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Louisa Counties and is open to all interested parties. The Term CWMA, or Cooperative Weed Management Area, refers to a local organization that integrates invasive species management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to benefit entire regions.

Funding for this brochure provided by the US Forest Service through a Healthy Forest Initiative Grant.

All Hawkeye CWMA members (agencies, organizations, and individuals) are equal opportunity providers and employers.

Chinese Bush Clover

Sericea lespedeza



A SERIOUS THREAT
 To
 Iowa's Prairies/Grasslands

What is Chinese Bush Clover?

- A perennial of the Legume Family.
- Native to eastern Asia.
- Brought to the United States for slope stabilization, wildlife habitat, and livestock foraging.
- Grows best in sunny, well drained sites.



An infestation of Chinese Bush Clover

What is the threat to Iowa?

- Forms dense stands that shade out native vegetation.
- Produces seeds that can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years.
- Becomes unpalatable by livestock in mid-summer.
- Has become well established and grows aggressively.

What does Chinese Bush Clover Look Like?

Identifying traits: Light green stems grow up to 5 feet tall and have few, short branches. Produces white flowers with purple centers from July through October. Leaves are small and compound.

Leaves:

Leaves are alternate, abundant, compound, and contain 3 oblong leaflets. Leaflets are larger near the bottom of the stem. The undersides are silvery and hairy.



Flowers:

Flowers can be found singularly or in clusters in the upper leaf axils. They are white with purple centers, and bloom from late July to October. Flowers turn yellow when dried.



Fruit:

Fruits are small, oval, and contain only one seed each.

Seeds:

Seeds are small and yellow to brown in color. They remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years, and are spread by animals eating the seeds and by haying.



Native Alternatives:

New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)-

This native perennial forb can grow up to 6 feet tall. It blooms from August to early October with large, royal purple flowers. Flowers cover the entire plant and attract many pollinator species.



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)-

A native aromatic herbaceous perennial. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds are attracted to the large purple flowers that bloom from July to September. Grows best in sunny sites, and has low water requirements. Was used by native Americans for many medicinal purposes.



What is the Difference Between Chinese Bush Clover and Roundheaded Bush Clover (*Lespedeza capitata*)?

Background:

Roundheaded Bush Clover is a native legume that grows up to 4 feet tall. It works well as a forage for livestock and is valuable to many wildlife species.

Similarities:

Stems are stiff and upright. The branches are short, with abundant, alternately arranged leaves. Leaves are compound with 3 leaflets. Flowers are pea-like, white with purple centers, and bloom from July to September.

Differences:

The petioles of Roundheaded Bush Clover are much shorter than the Chinese variety. The leaves and stems are densely covered with appressed hairs, giving the plant a silvery color. It only grows between 2 and 4 feet tall. Flowers bloom in large, dense, green clusters. Seed head is cinnamon brown in the fall and winter.



Roundheaded Bush Clover (*Lespedeza capitata*)