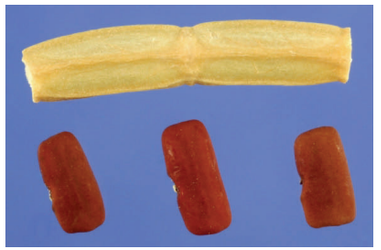
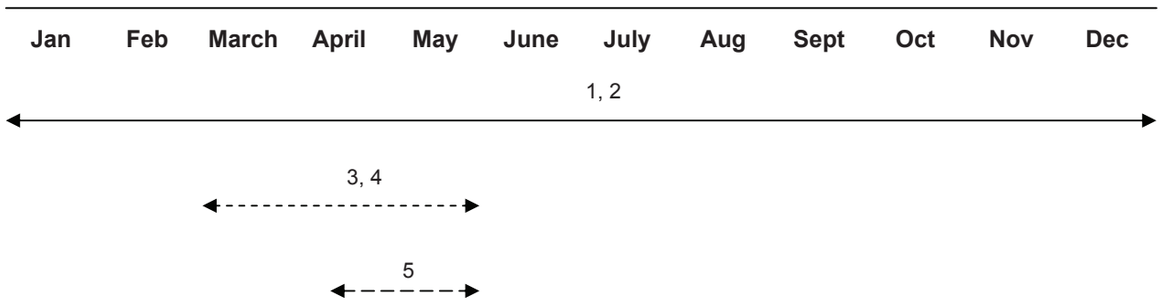
Foliage

Flower



Fruit (top) and Seeds (bottom)



Management Techniques

1. (All year) Cover the plant with dark plastic to prevent growth. Works well for small infestations. *Follow up with technique 2.*
2. (All year) After reducing the Crown Vetch population, plant a mixture of native grasses. *After completing any other technique, this must be done.*
3. (Spring) Hand-pulling. Make sure to get all parts of the plant. Monitor the site for re-growth. *Follow up with technique 4 and then technique 2.*
4. (Spring) Herbicides. For controlling large populations. First remove plant matter (by mowing, burning, or grazing) and then completely cover the entire plant with herbicide to the point of runoff. Follow-up treatments are usually necessary. *Follow up with technique 2. Choose ONE of the following herbicides:*
   A. 2,4-D amine: use the label recommendation; can be used with dicamba
   B. 2% Triclopyr solution
   C. 0.25% Clopyralid solution with a 0.5% surfactant (selective for broadleaf plants)
5. (Late Spring) Mowing. Prevents seed production. Needs to be done several times per year for many years due to extensive network of rhizomes and lengthy seed viability. *Follow up with technique 4 and then technique 2.*

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: James H. Miller and Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service; Steve Hurst, USDA NRCS PLANTS database; Ohio State Weed Lab Archive, Ohio State University; Richard Old, XID Services Inc; www.bugwood.org

Brochure Created By: Karen Clauson

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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.

Crown Vetch

Coronilla Varia

A Serious Threat
To
Iowa's Prairies/Grasslands

What is Crown Vetch?

- An herbaceous perennial.
- A member of the Legume family.
- Native to Europe, southeast Asia, and northern Africa.
- Was introduced in the 1950's and planted along roadsides and waterways for erosion control.
- Prefers full sun.

Mature Crown Vetch planting and erosion control failure

What is the threat to Iowa?

- Grows in dense clusters that shade out native species.
- Creeping roots underground can spread up to 10 ft long and help Crown Vetch spread quickly and easily.
- Seeds remain viable for more than 15 years.
- Easily escapes cultivated areas by spreading seeds and roots.
- Creeping roots spread horizontally and compete with native vegetation.

What does Crown Vetch Look Like?

Identifying traits: Produces white, pink, or purple flowers in May through August. Seeds mature by September. Forms dense thickets up to 3 ft high. Does not climb, like a true vetch would.

Seedlings: Emerge in early spring with small clover shaped leaves.

Leaves: Pinnately compound, alternate, smooth, oval shaped leaves. Each 2-6" long leaflet contains 15-25 pairs of leaves. Contains no leaf stalks.

Flowers: White, pink, or purple flowers bloom in May or June through August. Pea-like. Arranged in rounded clusters on the tip of extended stalks that grow from leaf axils.

Fruit: Long, narrow seedpods are produced in August.

Seeds: Several seeds can be found in each fruit. These seeds mature in September and can remain viable in the soil for more than 15 years.

Native Alternatives:

Canada Milk Vetch (Astragalus canadensis):

Canada Milk Vetch is widely used for erosion control, forage quality, and wetland restoration. This native perennial legume stands up to 4 feet tall, providing valuable wildlife habitat. Butterflies are attracted to the white-yellow upright flowers, which bloom from May to August. Plants do well in moist soil and full sun.

Partridge Pea (Cassia fasciculata)-

This native annual legume provides a valuable habitat and food source for many birds and small mammals. It's large, bright yellow flowers attract many different pollinators, including: butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. It grows best in the full sun but has low water requirements.

Going Native In Our Roadsides

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) currently spends nearly $3 million each year maintaining Iowa's roadsides. This maintenance includes spraying weeds, removing silt, and cleaning ditches. That is why the DOT, and roadside vegetation managers in counties throughout Iowa, have turned to native prairie wildflowers and grasses for vegetating our roadsides.

Benefits:

- The deep roots that native prairie plants contain help to stabilize the soil, reduce storm-water run off, and ultimately reduce the amount of pollution in rivers and streams.
- Native prairies provide valuable habitat and food sources for indigenous wildlife.
- Once established, native plants can displace weeds and reduce the need for chemical applications.
- The aesthetic beauty along Iowa's roadsides is drastically increased.
- Will save millions of dollars each year!