

# Controlling Undesirable Species

## Job Sheet

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)  
University Of Missouri Extension – The School of Natural Resources**

<b>For:</b>	<b>County:</b>
<b>Field(s):</b>	<b>Farm #:</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tract #:</b>
<b>Designed By:</b>	<b>Contact Information:</b>

### NON-NATIVE SPECIES DEGRADE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

**PURPOSE:**

Many non-native and some native plants can be a serious threat to natural communities. Undesirable plants may be aggressive, especially on disturbed ground, and can quickly spread, displacing native and other desirable plants. If left unchecked, these invasive plants can overtake entire native plant communities. Undesirable non-native and some native plants include: sericia lespedeza, birds foot trefoil, spotted knapweed, crown vetch, kudzu, teasel, Canada, bull and musk thistle, purple loosestrife, tall fescue, smooth brome, reed canary grass, Japanese honeysuckle, bush honeysuckle, sweet clover, Old World Bluestems, Siberian elm, wintercreeper, Russian olive, honey locust, Eastern red cedar and autumn olive.



Sericia lespedeza is an invasive plant from Asia that is a serious threat to native plant communities. Multiple herbicide applications may be necessary to control sericia lespedeza.

Early detection is the key to eradicating an invasive plant from a site. Control can be difficult once a population becomes established. Repeat treatments, sometimes annually for several years, may be necessary to eradicate an invasive plant from an area. Herbicide applications are usually the most effective way to eradicate a plant from a site. Other effective control methods include prescribed burning, mowing, and managed grazing. In many cases, combining two or more methods, such as prescribed burning and herbicide application, yields better control.

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

The following undesirable plants should be controlled using the indicated treatment methods.

FIELD(S)	ACRES	TREATMENT DATE	SPECIE TO BE CONTROLLED	TREATMENT METHOD(S) (grazing, prescribed burn, chemical, mowing)

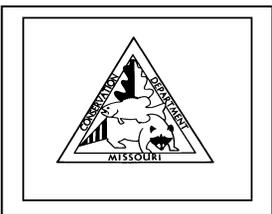
- If herbicides are used, follow label rates and directions. Be certain to apply herbicide when the target plant is most susceptible, which in most cases is when it is actively growing.
- Minimize herbicide applications in high quality natural communities. Use spot treatments instead of a broadcast treatment to limit the impact on desirable native vegetation.
- Consider alternative methods such as prescribed burning, light disking, mowing or grazing to weaken populations. Rarely can alternative methods alone eradicate an invasive plant from a site.

**MAINTENANCE:**

- Multiple treatments may be necessary to eradicate a population from an area. Scout infested fields annually to treat undesirable plants as they are recognized. Plan on scouting for at least two years after treatment to ensure adequate control.
- In large fields, a grid system should be used to scout for patches of invasive plants.

Consult with NRCS, MDC wildlife professionals, or University Extension for additional recommendations. Additional information on undesirable species control can be found in this MDC publication – “Missouri Vegetation Management Manual” or at this MDC website - <http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/exotic/vegman/>

Comment:



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