



Quail Times

Fall 2022

Invasive Species Spotlight

Mimosa or Silk Tree

By: Jeff Fellers – Clemson Extension

It is not uncommon to see a mimosa tree (*Albizia julibrissin*) blooming on the side of the road as we ride through South Carolina. Their flowers will put on a showy pink display and will stand out from May to July. Just like most of our invasives species, it was brought here from Asia in 1745 as an ornamental.



Mimosa is a fast growing, deciduous tree belonging to the legume family. It can also be referred to as Silk Tree or Pink Silk Tree. The tree can grow from 10-50 feet tall with a crown spread of 20-50 feet. It will produce flat bean like pods during the summer that will persist into the winter. Mimosa can be found on disturbed areas and often can out compete native vegetation due to the ability to tolerate a variety of soil types. It can spread by root sprouts or seeds that are dispersed by wildlife and water.



The leaves are alternate, bipinnately compound and are feathery and fernlike. It can be easily confused with honeylocust, and when in seedling stage could be confused with partridge pea.

Beneficial alternative plants include the following: serviceberry, redbud, flowering dogwood, fringe tree, and American Holly.

Control Methods:

Seedlings

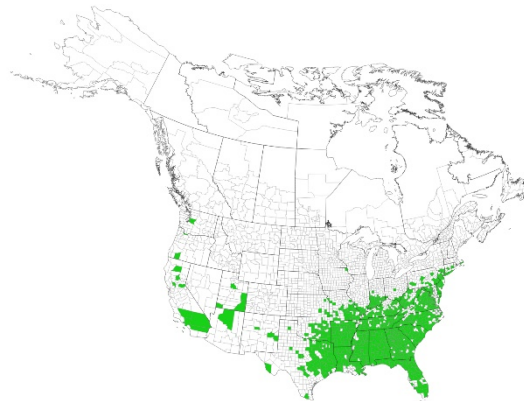
- July to October -- apply 2 percent solution of glyphosate or triclopyr plus a .25 percent non-ionic surfactant and wet all leaves.
- July to September – apply 0.2-0.4 percent solution

Saplings – Apply Garlon 4 as a 20 percent solution in commercially available basal oil, diesel fuel, or kerosene with a penetrant as a basal bark spray.



Large trees – Anytime, except March or April, make stem injections using Arsenal AC or Garlon 3A following the label for rates. For felled trees you can also use the same herbicides and treat cut stump immediately after cutting.

mimosa (Albizia julibrissin)



EDDmaps.org

Legend
Mimosa
Quail Times Report

References:

<https://www.eddmaps.org/>

<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/factsheet/122>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/albizia-julibrissin>

Native Species Spotlight Peavine

By: Gary Peters – NRCS

Buried deep in one of the written memoirs of Charles Julius Bertram, likely the first botanist to travel the eastern US, lies more than one entry referencing pea vine. The original text was published in 1747 and to this day there is some debate on just exactly what he was talking about. Obviously, a legume, obviously a vining plant, obviously a showy flower, but what exactly has been the subject of speculation in more than one conversation.

Suspect #1. The consensus among plant specialists is the most likely candidate is butterfly pea (*Clitoria mariana*). A herbaceous vining plant with multiple singular conspicuous lavender to purple to white flowers on plants trailing along the ground up to four feet in length.



It prefers well drained fertile soils and does best in full sun which are two of the predominant characteristics of the extensive savannas and woodlands of the Southeast encountered by Bertram. It is also the only widespread species of the genus *Clitoria* in the United States. Although uncommon in today's world in the southeast, it remains a good candidate.

If you are lucky enough to have butterfly pea seeds or any legume hidden in the seed bank on your land, a re-creation of a combination of suitable conditions of sunlight, soil fertility, and pH (6.5 - 7.5) will hasten their appearance on the landscape. Legumes are one of the fundamental mainstays of a healthy vibrant ecosystem. Having a diversity of nitrogen fixing plants improves soil fertility over time, and actually enhances the sequestration of carbon in soils.



As you travel around you may notice a vining plant with a large pealike flower popping up out of the ground cover, be aware there are two in our modern world. An escape from Europe *Clitoria ternatea*,

also a legume, is also called Butterfly pea.

With some practice you can tell the two apart by just comparing the size and proportions of the blooms. The blossom of '*ternatae*' is usually half again larger than the native Butterfly pea '*mariana*' and a subtly different shape. Its interesting to note the native butterfly pea has earned the nickname of Atlantic pigeonwings, why I haven't got a clue.

😊 More information about the native Butterfly pea can be found at the following link: [NameThatPlant.net: Butterfly-pea species](https://NameThatPlant.net:Butterfly-pea-species).

But wait, there's more to the story. It seems in deducing which species was Charles Bartram's pea vine, there are quite a few candidates to choose from. It begs the question, was it

only just one species or a collection of species? Take your pick, only Charles knows for sure!

Suspect #2 Spurred butterfly pea (*Centrosema virginianum*)



Suspect #3 Hog peanut (*Falcata comosa*)

Suspect #4 Ground nut (*Apios apios*)



Suspect #5 Twining Rhynchosia (*Rhynchosia tomentosa*)

Suspect #6 Prairie Rhynchosia (*Rhynchosia latifolia*)



Suspect #7 Wild bean
(*Phaseolus polystachyus*)

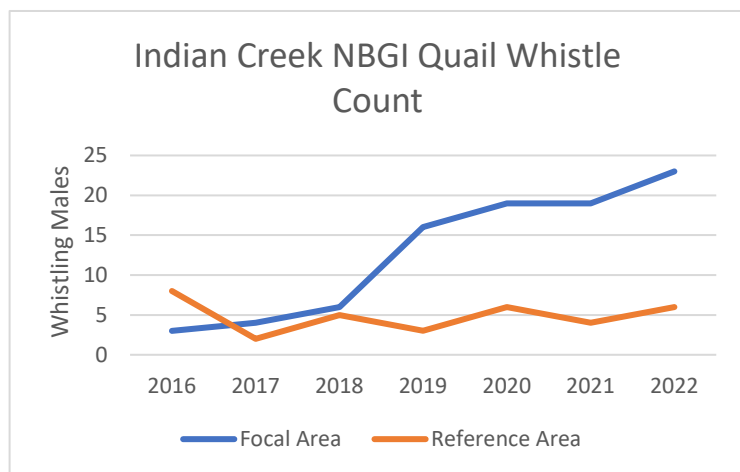


Reference Area it is business as usual, so it has not seen the habitat improvements that the Focal Area has. If the Reference Area and Focal Area show similar survey results, then the growth or decline of the population is likely not due to the habitat work that has been done. However, what we have seen over the years is that while the Focal Area bird populations thrive, those on the reference area struggle to remain steady, indicating we are doing something right on the Focal Area!

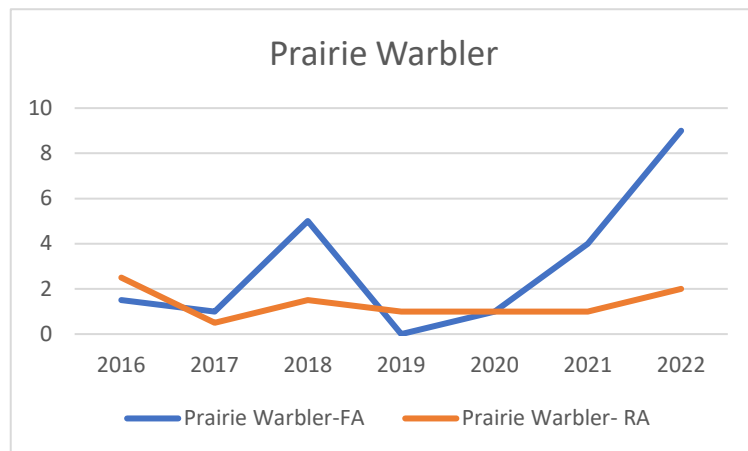
Indian Creek Quail Focal Area Population Continues to Increase

By: Jake McClain – Quail Area Coordinator

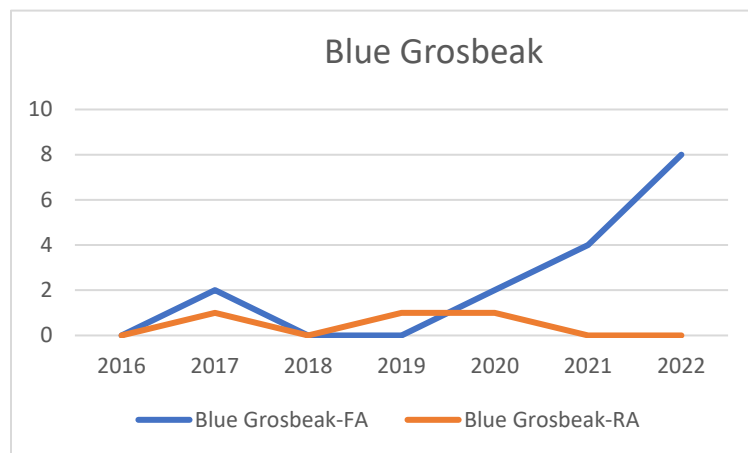
Once again, we have good news to report about the quail population on the Indian Creek Quail Focal Area. This past June, I conducted our annual whistle counts on both the Focal Area and the Reference Area. Across the 12 Focal Area survey points, I documented a record breaking 23 whistling males! Only six years ago, the same 12 survey points resulted in only 3 whistling birds, indicating that the population has increased dramatically. Likewise, I also documented all time high numbers of prairie warblers and blue grosbeaks on the Focal Area. The growth of these populations of grassland-shrubland dependent species is a testament to the intensive habitat work that the US Forest Service and partners have implemented on the Enoree Ranger District. The foundation of the habitat management at Indian Creek rests on two pillars: thinning timber and regular use of prescribed fire. Hundreds of acres have been thinned over the years to an appropriate density to grow a diverse mosaic of understory vegetation that provides quail and other wildlife excellent food and cover. Last year, an aggressive prescribed fire schedule was largely successful at knocking back woody vegetation and creating excellent brood habitat for chicks.



I also conducted counts on the Reference Area. The Reference Area is used to compare population levels to the Focal Area (e.g., where all the habitat work is occurring). On the



The success of growing the quail population at Indian Creek through habitat improvements should be a model for other public land entities and private landowners alike to take and apply elsewhere across the state and Southeast. The lesson is this: focus on the habitat and you can grow birds!



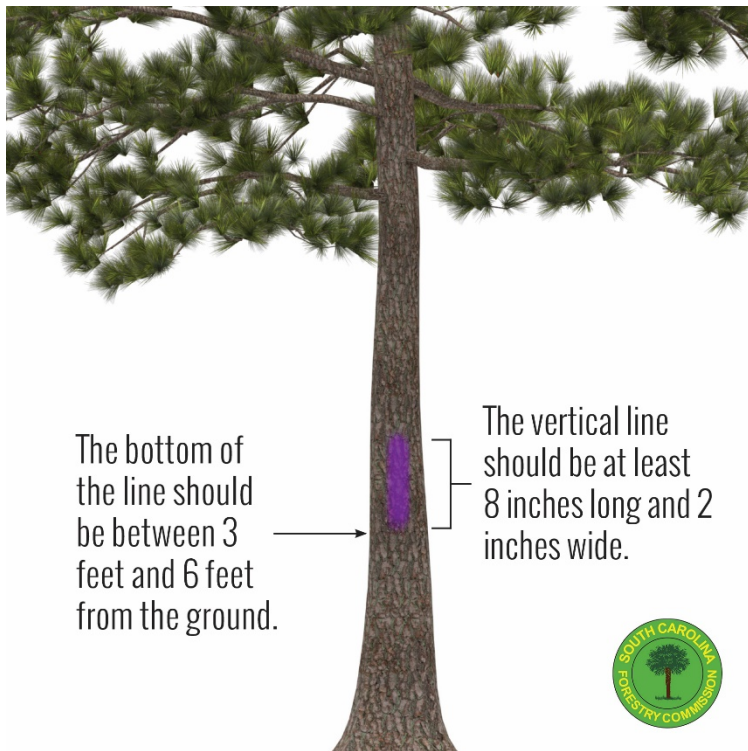
Purple Paint Law

By: South Carolina Forestry Commission

Gov. Henry McMaster signed H.3291, known as the purple paint bill, into law May 23, 2022. The law provides landowners an alternative method for posting a notice of trespassing on their property. The legislation states:

(B) The owner or tenant of any lands may accomplish the required posting of notice as follows: (1) by posting a notice in four conspicuous places on the borders of such land prohibiting entry thereon; or (2) by marking boundaries with a clearly visible purple-painted marking, consisting of one vertical line not less than eight inches in length and two inches in width, and the bottom of the mark not less than three nor more than six feet from the ground or normal water surface. These marks must be fixed to immovable, permanent objects that are not more than 100 yards apart and readily visible to any person approaching the property. (C) When any owner or tenant of any lands shall post a notice as provided in this section, a proof of the posting is deemed and taken as notice conclusive against the person making entry for the purpose of trespassing."

Instead of using traditional "no trespassing" signs, which can be removed or destroyed by weather, landowners can mark boundaries with clearly visible purple-painted markings that should be at least 8 inches long and 2 inches wide. The bottom of the lines should be between 3 feet and 6 feet from the ground or normal water surface. These marks must be affixed to immovable, permanent objects that are no more than 100 yards apart and readily visible to any person approaching the property.



Local Burn Co-Ops

By: Jake McClain and Kayla Silva

In March of this year, several passionate landowners met with conservationists from SCDNR, Clemson Extension, Quail Forever, and the South Carolina Forestry Commission to form the Piedmont Prescribed Fire Cooperative (PPFC). The PPFC is a group of landowners from Fairfield, Laurens, Newberry, Spartanburg, and Union Counties who help one another use prescribed fire as a management tool on their properties through shared labor, equipment, and knowledge. The group also promotes both formal and informal training by working closely with state and NGO conservation organizations. To date, the PPFC has conducted eight (8) prescribed fire operations with five (5) different members. The landowner still accepts all liability for the burn, but the PPFC can help get the equipment and manpower there to make burns successful. The PPFC continues to grow in membership and all landowners are welcome to join. For more information on the PPFC, please contact our President, Cole Shealy via email at cole.shealy@yahoo.com OR Quail Forever Biologist Jake McClain at jmccclain@quailforever.org; 803-321-2995.

A similar cooperative is starting to take shape for Chester, Cherokee, Lancaster, and York counties. If you are interested in joining this group. Please contact Quail Forever biologist Kayla Silva at ksilva@quailforever.org or 864-737-2022 or Andrew Conner at aconn_usmc@yahoo.com or 803-517-6975.

Due to Funding we do not know how long we will be able to continue to mail this newsletter out by paper mail.

If you receive this newsletter by paper mail and would like to continue to receive it, please sign up for our email list serve.

Please send your name, mailing address, and email address to fellers@clemson.edu and be sure to include Indian Creek email list serve in the subject line.

New Indian Creek Quail Focal Area Regulations

By: Michael Hook – SC Department of Natural Resources

The Indian Creek area has always been a holdout for good quail hunting since the Indian Creek Wildlife Habitat Restoration Initiative began way back in 2003. In recent years a great deal of effort has been made to improve the habitat for bobwhite quail and other grassland species in the area. As the bobwhite quail population increased it became evident that in order to maintain higher densities, expand the quail population outside of the Indian Creek Focal Area and provide a more enjoyable experience for the hunters the birds were going to need a little help.

Bobwhite quail are highly susceptible to disturbance and even if they aren't harmed in the process the disturbed birds will quickly move to sub-optimal habitat where they are often subjected to higher than average predation. Ask anyone who regularly quail hunts the Indian Creek area how hard it is to find quail after the first week of the season. They will often tell you that the quail have all been killed but in reality, what has happened is they have been pushed out of the good habitat on the focal area into adjacent lands that may not be as suitable for them. You can find them in lowland cane breaks, thick commercial pine stands, and other unusual places. Once they are there they can be predated rather easily because of the lack of cover and food they need and had in the focal area.

There is an effort to add additional acres of good habitat to the area and you can see that in the recent logging operations in the King's Creek Area. This habitat work was made possible by a Good Neighbor Authority agreement between the SCDNR and the USFS. Approximately 600 acres is to be thinned and pine savannah habitat is to be restored in an effort to produce more available lands to quail and to hunters.

Hunting pressure was still going to be problematic for the quail and a strategy needed to be devised to help alleviate the negative effects of pressure on the local bird population. Special regulations were developed with input from US Forest Service, SC Department of Natural Resources and Quail Forever. **Quail and woodcock hunting will be limited to 10 days on the new Indian Creek Quail Focal Area, quail and woodcock hunters must sign in and out at a check station located in the Enoree Ranger Station parking lot and a reduction in the daily bag limit for quail was also implemented.** Quail and woodcock hunting outside of the designated Indian Creek Quail Focal area remains unchanged and is open 6 days a week during the regular seasons with no changes in the bag limit and no check in required.

The Indian Creek Quail Focal Area is located on certain USFS lands in northern Newberry County and includes but is not limited to, all public lands located off of the following roads: Wallace Rd, McCulloch Rd. Larry E. Cope Rd., Judy Barnes Rd. and Long Lane. **Hunters should refer to the map posted on the kiosk check station located in the Enoree Ranger Station parking lot for detailed boundary information.**

The 10 days the Indian Creek Quail Focal area will be open for quail hunting this season are as follows: **Nov. 26, Dec. 7, 17, 21, 28, Jan. 7, 18, 28 and Feb. 8 and 18.** Woodcock will be able to be hunted within the area on **Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 7, 18, and 28.** The spacing of these dates will allow for limited disturbance to the birds and hopefully provide a better hunting experience across the whole season for the bird hunter. Within the Indian Creek Quail Focal Area the daily bag limit for quail will be 6 quail per person per day.

These changes were not taken lightly and were deliberately created while trying to balance the quail's needs while providing a quality opportunity for hunters. Quail populations will continue to be monitored annually and with the advent of the hunter sign in we will be able to better gauge the hunter impact to the area. Additional habitat will continue to be created in the area and it is our hope that the quail population will continue it's upward trend and the hunting become renown across the region.

Up Coming Events

Save the Date

Learn To Burn Workshop

Location: Meetze Farm, Newberry County

Date: October 6, 2022

Backup Dates: October 27 and November 3.

Registration coming soon

Hosted by: SC Forestry Commission and Indian Creek Quail Restoration Initiative Committee.



Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Class (CPFM)



A Certified Prescribed Fire Manager (CPFM) class will be held on Monday, October 3, 2022 in Newberry. The one-day course teaches managers how to plan prescribed burns that comply with [South Carolina Smoke Management Guidelines](#). These regulations are mandatory for all forestry, wildlife and agricultural burning in South Carolina. The course is not intended to teach individuals how to burn, but rather how to manage smoke from prescribed fires under these regulations and create awareness of legal issues associated with outdoor burning. Certification requires that an individual complete this training, pass a written exam, and document one's burning experience. Each session will begin at 8:00 am, and close by 5:00 pm with an administered test. A registration form is included at the back of this newsletter.

Opportunity to Volunteer: Covey Counts By: Jake McClain – Quail Area Coordinator

Most everyone is familiar with the iconic whistle that individual male bobwhites make in the spring/summer to attract mates, but far fewer can recognize the sound of a covey waking up on a crisp fall morning. If you are unfamiliar (or familiar) with this special moment in the quail woods, we are looking for volunteers to help us with our fall covey counts on Indian Creek and Delta South WMA. Fall covey counts are really the best way to estimate the size of the quail population prior to the hunting season. In October, quail populations are at their highest. Recording the number and location of coveys detected help us better understand the distribution, density, and trajectory of the quail population. If more coveys are detected this year than last year, it indicates that the population has grown and vice versa. If no coveys are detected at certain survey areas, it indicates that the habitat needs more work. This information helps guide our efforts to conserve the birds more efficiently on both public and private lands.

After coveys are detected and the survey period (45 mins before sunrise-sunrise) is over, volunteers with bird dogs will be given the opportunity to flush the coveys to get an estimate of covey size. This is a great way to get some good wild bird contact for your dog prior to the opener.

Prior to helping with covey counts, new volunteers will be required to go through a morning of training. Covey counts will be conducted from mid-October to early November. Exact dates will be sent out to volunteers. Please contact Jake McClain at 803-321-2995 or by email at jmcclain@quailforever.org if you are interested in volunteering. Those that sign up will get more information via email. Thanks!