



Quail Times

Spring 2023

Invasive Species Spotlight

Multiflora Rose

By: Jeff Fellers – Clemson Extension

Many gardeners love their roses, but did you know there are some roses that are nonnative and invasive.

Multiflora rose was introduced from Japan in 1866. It was used as a rootstock for ornamental roses. It has also been planted as a living fence due to the thorns produced on the stems.



Multiflora Rose in April (Image Source Nonnative invasive plants of the Southern Forest)

Multiflora rose may be confused with native Carolina rose and blackberry. Multiflora roses will have thorns that are curved, kind of like a cat's claw. Whereas, Carolina rose

has straight thorns. Thickets of multiflora rose can reach 6 feet tall while Carolina rose will reach 3 feet tall. Multiflora rose blooms in the summer from May to June with a white cluster of flowers. Carolina rose will bloom in the summer from June to July with non-clustered flowers that will be light pink.

Multiflora rose is a serious threat, as it can reproduce by seed and arching branches that can root when they touch the ground. Typically, you will find this plant along forest edges, right-of-ways, and fields. Once



Multiflora Rose in May (Image Source Nonnative invasive plants of the Southern Forest)

established, multiflora rose can form dense thickets that can overwhelm native vegetation.

Control

- Foliar
 - April to June – At or near time of flowering
 - Escort – 1 oz per acre in water (.2 dry ounces per 3-gallon mix)
 - August to October
 - Arsenal AC – 1 percent solution (4 ounces per 3-gallon mix)
 - Escort – 1 oz per acre in water (.2 dry ounces per 3-gallon mix)
 - May to October
 - Glyphosate – 4 percent solution in water (1 pint per 3-gallon mix)
 - Less effective, but this treatment has no soil activity to damage surrounding vegetation.
- Cut Stem – For stems too tall for foliar sprays
 - January to February
 - Garlon 4 – 20 percent solution in basal oil, diesel fuel, or kerosene with penetrant (2.5 quarts per 3-gallon mix)
 - May to October – 20 percent solution in basal oil, diesel fuel, or kerosene with penetrant (2.5 quarts per 3-gallon mix)
 - Any time – Cut large stems and immediately treat the stump
 - Arsenal AC – 10 percent solution (1 quart per 3-gallon mix)
 - Glyphosate – 20 percent solution (2.5 quarts per 3-gallon mix)



Multiflora Rose in October (Image Source Nonnative invasive plants of the Southern Forest)

Native Species Spotlight

Little Bluestem

By: Gary Peters – NRCS

Imagine the panoramic view that was the piedmont when explorers first ventured here. It must have been



an amazing site to experience and see the fire resilient landscape of scattered trees and grasses sway and ripple in the wind. On a much smaller scale, at first glance the waves of grasses would be reminiscent of the wheat fields that dot the spring landscape today.

On closer inspection however, while our modern wheat fields are almost 99% wheat, the original piedmont savannas were about 20% grass and as much 80% forbs (broadleaved plants) in volume. Although what you were able to see from a distance was predominantly grass, mostly hidden from view in the spaces between the bunch grasses would have been a diversity of plants that we can only begin to fathom.

One of the principal forbs of our native grassland landscape of the piedmont were the native lespedezas. A member of the pea family also known as bush clover, lespedeza plays several roles to this day in the ecology of our natural world. The seeds are consumed throughout the fall & winter by various birds including Mourning Dove, Bobwhite Quail, Wild Turkey, White-throated sparrow, and Slate-Colored Juncos. The flowers are visited by honeybees, butterflies, and the bulk of our native South Carolina bee species. The plants are high in



protein and eaten by many herbivores both wild (e.g., deer, rabbits, groundhogs) and domestic (e.g., cattle, goats).

As their nickname implies, Lespedezas are ‘clover like’ in that they are a legume and their unique symbiotic relationship with certain bacteria in the soil improves soil conditions for other plants. The term you may know as ‘nitrogen fixing’. There are about 40 recognized species of lespedeza in North America, about 1/3 of those can be found in South Carolina (Springer, 2011). At least one species, Slender Lespedeza (common to GA, SC, and NC) is being used in cancer-treatment research.

A perennial herb mostly occurring in dry open sunlit conditions, native lespedeza is almost always in mixed communities of other sun loving plants. Ranging from erect shrubby plants 2’ to 4’ tall to supple viny stems woven among other plants or trailing on the ground, they are inconspicuous to the passer by even when in bloom. It takes a closer look to see the slender clover like leaf that is perhaps the best clue to identifying a lespedeza.



There are several lespedezas that have been introduced to North America over the last century, however. These ‘nonnatives’, predominantly Sericia and Bi-color lespedeza, while suitable for erosion control, forage, cover, and nitrogen fixing capacity, are invasive and of little to no benefit for native wildlife as a food source. (see Quail Times, Summer/Fall edition 2019 article by Jeff Fellers)

A tidbit of trivia, the name “Lespedeza” is a typo. The governor of East Florida, Vicente Manuel de Céspedes (1784 – 1790) gave permission to Andre Michaux to search for new species of plants in that part of Florida. In Michaux’s published works “Flora Boreali-Americana of 1802”, the name ‘Cespedes’ was written as ‘Lespedez’. The derivative of which became the name of the plants we know as Lespedeza today.

How the South Carolina Conservation Partnership serves the land and wildlife.
By: Josh Boatwright – NRCS District Conservationist, Newberry County

In South Carolina, Conservation Partnership has always been a three-legged barstool. On one leg, we have the NRCS/USDA (Natural Resource Conservation Service). They are the federal partners which assist with technical and financial assistance on improving the use of natural resources. On the second leg, we have the County Conservation Districts which are made up of elected members and appointed members (who are appointed by the DNR Board). These County Conservation Districts help locally lead the federal dollars by identifying what is important for their county and what resources could help the land in their county. On the third leg, we have South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. SC DNR works through the County Districts to provide technical assistance to facilitate the protection, wise use and enhancement of the state's soil and water resources. It takes all three legs being strong and resilient for the stool to remain standing. Conservation partnerships bring together a mosaic of highly skilled people with different viewpoints who work together to achieve conservation goals.

Farm Bill Initiatives help showcase the efforts of Conservation Partnerships in our state. Two of our current initiatives, The Bobwhite Quail Initiative and the Gopher Tortoise /Longleaf Pine Initiative target two species that have lost crucial habitat through the years. These programs try to increase the habitat for these species and work to restore their native range. The Gopher Tortoise initiative puts an emphasis on planting longleaf pine as longleaf forest is their natural habitat. The Bobwhite Quail initiative puts an emphasis on leaving areas to hatch and raise coveys through Native Warm Season Grass Plantings and alternating disking areas annually on dedicated wildlife habitat. The Gopher Tortoise is one of South Carolina's endangered species and the Bob White Quail is on the near-threatened species list, so the work of restoring their habitat is crucial to the future of both species in our State.

Watershed rehabilitation projects are one way that Conservation Partnerships work in favor of the land and

wildlife. These programs help the general public protect and improve their use of natural resources through targeted promotion of conservation practices such as excluding cattle from streams or increasing field borders to lower nutrient runoff from cropland fields. Recent examples of watershed rehabilitation projects include Shaw's Creek 319 project in Aiken/Edgefield Counties and Eastatoe Creek 319 project in Pickens County. These projects can range from fencing livestock out of streams in Aiken County to improving septic systems on old houses on mountain streams to reduce bacteria levels which improves the habitat for Trout and other species suffering from habitat loss. The result of these watershed rehabilitation projects makes streams cleaner, which improves wildlife habitat and brings that water closer to safe recreational levels.

Conservation Innovation Grants are another example of Conservation Partnerships. This past year and currently, Aiken Soil and Water District was awarded a CIG grant to improve irrigation efficiency on twelve center-pivot irrigation systems across the state and to educate the public on irrigation efficiency. This project is a partnership with Aiken SWCD, NRCS, SC DNR, Palmetto Agribusiness Council, American Forestry Management, South Carolina Department of Agriculture and AgSouth that has brought together a bunch of skilled individuals to get out the word about how important small changes on an irrigation system can save millions of gallons per year on each farm. Saving millions of gallons annually per farm matter both to the farmers paying for fuel/electricity to pump the water and to the reservoirs below us and to the future generations that are reliant upon having water.

Conservation easements also bring together partners to help protect the future of our lands in the South Carolina. Some easements such as GRP and WRP (Grassland Reserve Program or Wetland Reserve Program) can protect the land use for perpetuity and some such as CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) are term-limited easements that require enhancing your land/habitat during the program. Both easement types help benefit the State's wildlife by protecting the land from development or commercialization. These easements are often written by our federal partners, NRCS and field verified by SC DNR staff. This is another example of how Conservation Partnerships benefit our land and wildlife.

When our State and Federal agencies come together to work toward a common cause in conservation, the future generations of South Carolinians win. Whether the goal is to improve irrigation efficiency in center pivots in row crop fields or to improve the habitat for trout on mountain streams or protect important/productive lands, the end result benefits the land, the wildlife, and the future of our state. The goal of many people who care about the environment is to leave the land better than they found it, the goal of Conservation Partnerships is to make it easier to do so.

Piedmont Prescribed Fire Cooperative Update

By: **Jake McClain – SC Quail Focus Area Coordinator**

So far it has been a wet year, leaving few days that have been suitable to burn. That said, the Cooperative has conducted 8 successful Rx fire operations since Jan 1st. Five members hosted numerous volunteers from the Piedmont Prescribed Fire Cooperative (PPFC) to burn a total of ~108 acres. The PPFC is a group of landowners from Newberry, Union, Laurens, and Fairfield counties who help one another use prescribed fire in a safe and effective way. Members are part of a conservation community of landowners, hunters, and wildlife professionals that all know that fire plays a vital role in habitat management here in the Southeast.

This past year, several members of the PPFC attended a Learn to Burn and/or the SCFC's Certified Prescribed Fire Manager's course. This current year, several folks who passed the CPFM course are working towards completing their 5 burns to become certified.

The PPFC will man a booth at the Palmetto Sportsman's Classic (Mar 24-26th) to try and recruit more members and spread the gospel of prescribed fire. If you are interested in working the booth, please reach out to the PPFC President Cole Shealy at: cole.shealy@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in learning about Rx fire and joining the PPFC, please contact Jake McClain at jmcclain@quailforever.org or Cole Shealy at cole.shealy@yahoo.com. Folks can join the PPFC by sending a \$50 check made out to Newberry Soil and Water to 719 Kendall Rd, Newberry, SC, 29108.

Forest Management Calendar SC Forestry Commission

| Management Practice | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------|-------|---|-------------------------------|------|--|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Prescribed Fire | | Conduct all prescribed burning activities. Cease burning by May 14th. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disking | Winter disking - end by Feb 15th | | | | | | | | | | Winter disking - begin Nov 15 | |
| Herbicide Application: Hardwoods | | | | | | | | Spray undesirable hardwoods. Stop spraying after 1st week in Oct | | | | |
| Herbicide Application: Invasives | | | | | Herbicide application: Bahiagrass (May), Bermudagrass (June), Sericea lespedeza (June-August) | | | Herbicide application: Tall fescue | | | | |
| Herbicide Application: Native Grasses | | | | | | | | | Apply imazapyr to dense native grasses | | | |
| Population Monitoring | | | | | | Conduct Spring whistle counts | | | | Conduct Fall covey counts | | |
| Timber Harvest | Timber harvests may be conducted year-round. If there are concerns about breeding season impacts, logging activities can be restricted to Fall/Winter months (Oct-Feb). Logging activities conducted during the Fall/Winter months may encourage more desirable plant communities due to dormant season soil disturbance. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mechanical Equipment | Management of woody vegetation growth with mechanical equipment (e.g. chainsaws) may be conducted year-round. If desired, cutting can be done in conjunction with herbicide treatments to eliminate undesirable species. If heavier equipment (masticators, drum choppers) is used, activities should be conducted outside of breeding season. | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Forest Management Calendar Provided by SC Forestry Commission | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Treatment | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Request A Forest Stewardship Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apply For Equip Or Cost-Share Programs With NRCS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apply For Cost-Share Assistance with The SC Forestry Commission | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Road Maintenance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Site Preparation Burning | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Insect & Disease Inspection | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chemical Herbaceous Weed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chemical Site Preparation/Release | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fire Breaks | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food Plot Planting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harvesting (Includes Thinning) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mechanical Site Preparation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Order Seedlings | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prescribed Burning | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tree Planting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Indicates appropriate month for technique

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.



Camp is a 5 day summer day camp to explore conservation topics including wildlife, recycling, farming, forestry, soils and water.

Camp Dates:

June 19-23, 2023

Daily: 8:30 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

Camp Location:

Wilson Farm

4205 Werts Rd

Silverstreet SC 29145



Camp Conservation



To Register: \$45 Registration Fee

Visit: www.eventbrite.com/Campconservation2023

USDA Service Center 719 Kendall Rd, Newberry SC 29108

Crista 803-597-3160