



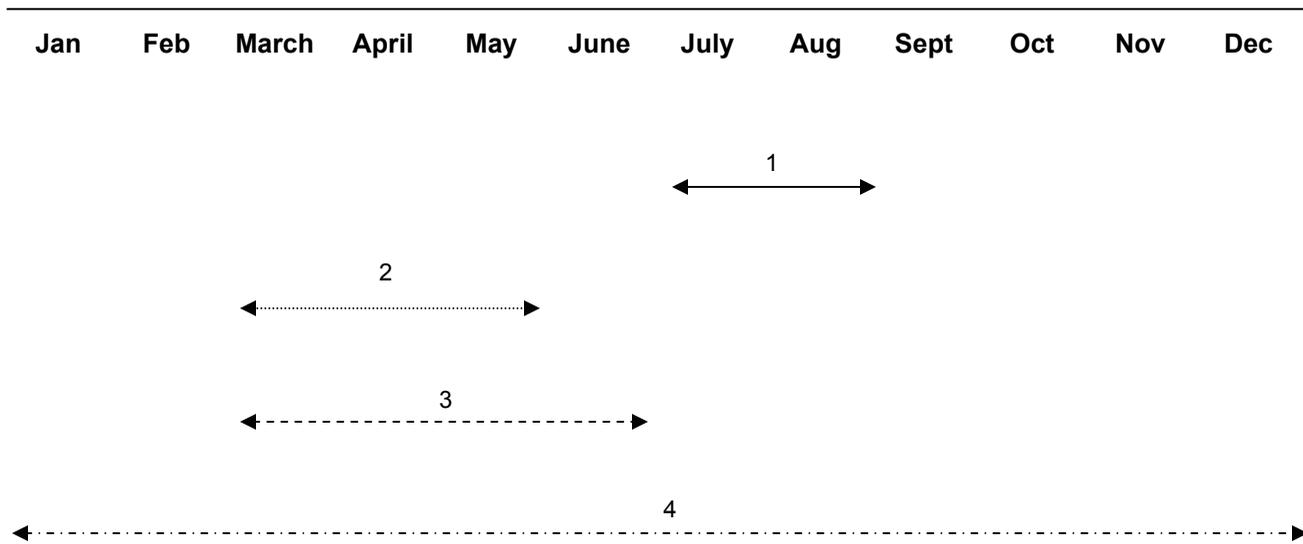
Foliage



Flowers



Seed heads



Management Techniques

1. (July– September) Remove seed heads before seeds set or remove flower heads during peak bloom. If necessary, apply a strong solution of glyphosate to cut stem in order to kill the entire plant.
2. (Spring) Young plants may be dug out. This method does not work well on larger plants due to the thick taproot.
3. (Spring– Early Summer) Use a shovel to cut the taproot 4 inches below the soil surface.
4. (All Year) The herbicide clopyralid has been successful in controlling Burdock. Closely follow the labeled instructions for use.

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:

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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.

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



Common Burdock

Arctium minus



A SERIOUS THREAT To Iowa's Prairies/Grasslands

What is Common Burdock?

- A biennial forb, although it can occasionally live up to 4 years.
- Native to Europe.
- Its leaves look similar to those of rhubarb.
- Produces burs that cling to fur and clothing, which aids in seed dispersal.
- Has invaded and is taking over areas of disturbed or compacted soil.



An infestation of Burdock

What is the threat to Iowa?

- Has no natural growth controls.
- Outcompetes native vegetation for light, water, and nutrients.
- Each plant can produce 15,000 seeds.
- Spreads rapidly.

What does Common Burdock Look Like?

Identifying traits: A biennial forb that grows up to 6 feet tall. First year plant has leaves that look similar to rhubarb leaves. Second year plant produces a stalk and flowers. Seed heads are burs that stick to clothes and fur.

Leaves:

Large, similar to rhubarb leaves, heart-shaped, and wavy. The upper surface of leaves are dull dark green with veins, and the undersides are pale gray-green and fuzzy. Petioles are hollow and may be purple. Second year plants have alternate leaves on a stem that can grow up to 6 feet tall. The top leaves are small and ovate.



Native Alternatives:

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*):

This native herbaceous perennial can grow up to 2 feet tall. It produces pink or purple flowers from April to May, which attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Wild Geranium grows best in partially sunny and moist areas.



Flowers:

Small, red or violet flowers bloom from May to September. Flowers are tubular and clustered at the ends of stems and in leaf axils. Surrounding the flowers are bristly, hooked bracts that will eventually form the bur.



Seeds:

Each plant produces typically 15,000 seeds which mature in September. Seeds are on seed heads that are thistle-like burs. The larger prickly burs attach onto clothing and fur for dispersal.



Wild Columbine

(*Aquilegia Canadensis*):

Wild Columbine is a native wildflower that blooms in the spring with bright red and yellow flowers. It can grow up to 3 feet tall and will easily self-seed to fill in gardens. Flowers are very attractive to hummingbirds. Grows best with a medium amount of sun and water.



Similar Species

Broadleaf Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)

Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*):

The young seedlings of Broadleaf Dock and Curly Dock look similar to Common Burdock, but their leaves do not contain hairs on the undersides like Common Burdock leaves do.

Rhubarb (*Rheum rubarbarum*):

Common Burdock resembles Rhubarb when in the rosette stage, however Rhubarb leaves do not have wooly undersides. Also, the petioles of Rhubarb are solid and lightly colored red.

Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*):

The flowers of Common Burdock look similar to Bull Thistle flowers, but the stem of Bull Thistle is spiny and the leaves are deeply lobbed.

Great Burdock (*Arctium lappa*):

Great Burdock and Common Burdock are very similar in appearance, but Great Burdock grows 3 feet taller than Common Burdock. The flower heads are arranged in flat-topped clusters in Great Burdock. One other difference is that the petioles of Great Burdock are not hollow, like those of Common Burdock.



Common Burdock



Great Burdock