

# CROWN VETCH

*Securigera varia* (L.) Lassen

Restricted

## Common Names

Crownvetch, Purple Crown Vetch

## Life Cycle

Herbaceous perennial

## Native Range

Eurasia

## Look-a-Likes

Alfalfa (pg 60)

American Vetch (pg 73)

Canadian Milkvetch (pg 76)

Hairy Vetch (pg 67)

## Habitat

Old fields, pastures and roadsides. Crown vetch has been planted extensively for forage products and along roadsides and steep embankments for erosion control.

## Means of Spread

Spreads through seeds and vegetatively through rhizomes. It can be introduced to new areas by moving soil infested with rhizome fragments.

## Identification

**Plant** - Erect, perennial plant at 1 to 2 feet tall that forms dense tangled masses of reclining 2 to 6 feet long stems.

**Leaves** - Alternate, compound leaves, odd-pinnate with 11 to 25 oval, smooth-edged leaflets often with a minutely pointed tip. Leaves are stalkless.

**Flower** - Up to 6 inch long, erect flower stalks support dense umbels or crown-like clusters of 10 to 25, 5-parted,  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long pinkish flowers.

**Bloom Time** - May to September

**Seed and Fruit** - Erect, narrow, multi-segmented, pointy-tipped, angular pods containing up to 12 seeds are clustered at ends of upright stalks.

**Root** - Aggressive rhizomes, growing horizontally up to 10 feet and vegetatively producing new plants.

## Management

**Mechanical** - Cutting or mowing will reduce vigor but not eliminate an infestation. Plan to mow several times a season and monitor to time operations with a goal to prevent seed set. Mow cautiously as large infestations often conceal erosion.

**Chemical** - Foliar application during active growing periods.

**Fire** - Prescribed fire can be used with other management tactics to encourage stands of native grasses that will compete for resources. However, monitoring is necessary as crown vetch will resprout after burns.



## Treatment Timing

## Crown Vetch

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April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar

**Effective herbicide formulations:** 2,4-D, aminopyralid, clopyralid, dicamba, glyphosate, metsulfuron, picloram, sulfometuron, triclopyr.