

MISSOURI BEEF CATTLEMAN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI CATTLEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

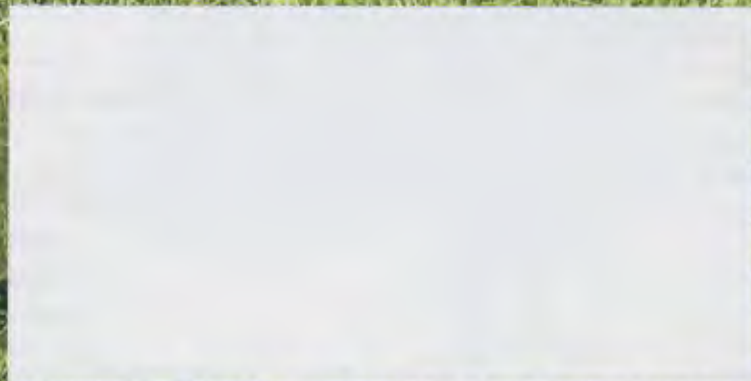
More Time, Less Taxes

Missouri Tax Credit Program Aims to
Incentivize Keeping Cattle in the State

DEFEND YOUR PASTURE

*Control invasive species in your
pasture through careful monitoring and
management*

July 2017



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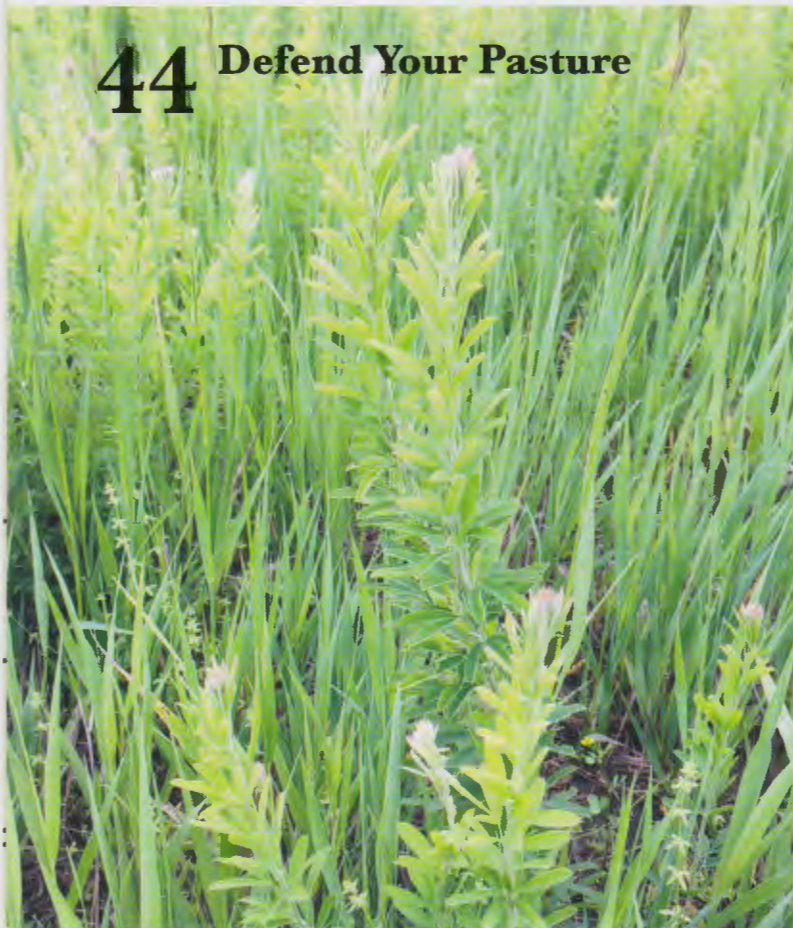
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The *Missouri Beef Cattleman* is an official publication of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.





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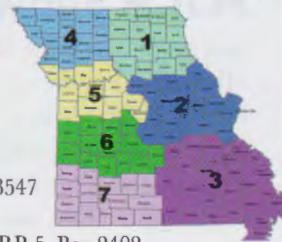
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Every spring, ranchers and landowners wonder just how to begin to tackle and control those pesky invasive plants that tend to show up each year in their pastures. If control measures haven't been taken in prior years, farmers can easily tell their problems are getting worse and more widespread.

In fact, issues with invasive species will not go away without further attention from the producer. If you want to maximize grass production and benefit wildlife simultaneously, producers will want to control the invasive plants as soon as possible.

Introduction of invasive species occurs in many ways including spread by animals, wind, water, and mower/equipment transport of seeds and plant materials from pasture to pasture. Two invasive species that frequently generate calls

Defend Your Pasture

Control Invasive Species Through Careful Monitoring and Management

each summer are *Sericea lespedeza* and multiflora rose. Both of these invasive plants can spread rapidly in pastures and old fields when left untreated and smother out quality, desirable grasses that producers manage to increase production. The best way to try to control both these invasive plants is to scout for them often. If left untreated, *Sericea lespedeza* and multiflora rose can get completely out of control in pastures. Annual pasture inspections and close monitoring of changing pasture conditions can help landowners identify problem species that will need to be treated to minimize the spread from one pasture to the next.

Sericea Lespedeza

Sericea lespedeza is a perennial legume that was introduced to the U.S. from eastern Asia and has spread across the Midwest since the 1930s. It is a drought resistant plant, so even in dry years when pastures are performing poorly, *Sericea* can thrive and continue to out compete other desirable grasses in your paddocks. *Sericea* forms dense stands of vegetation and produces seeds that are viable in the soil for over 20 years. Most importantly, *Sericea* is not palatable to cattle, so when left untreated it can expand even more rapidly through cattle pasture in a short

By Nick Prough
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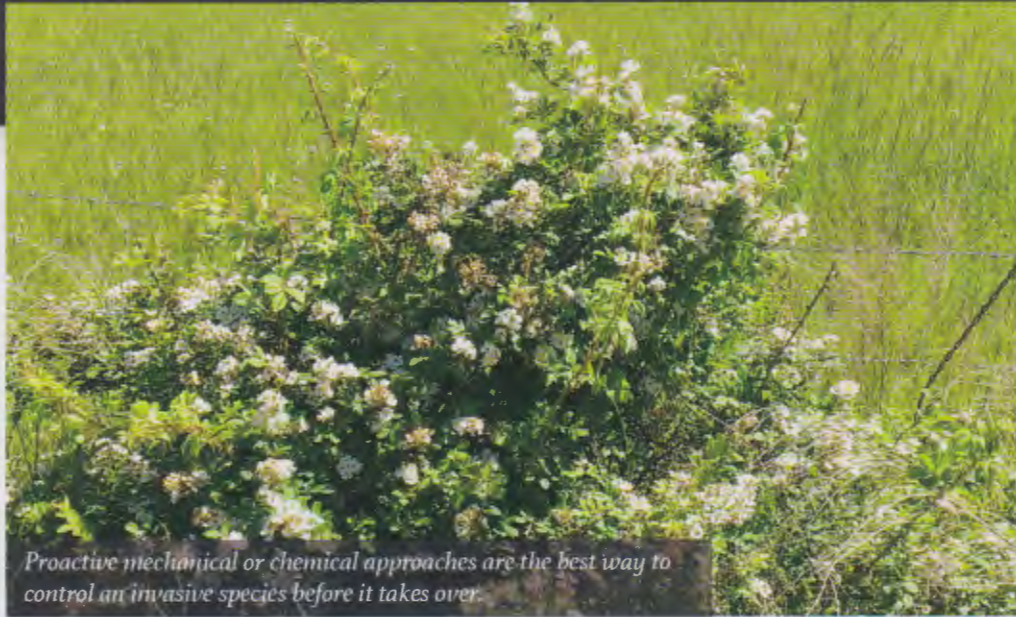
Multiflora Rose blooms in early spring in Missouri with white flowers.

amount of time. There are several options available to a producer when managing *Sericea lespedeza*, and the best method will depend on the size of the infestation. Typically, chemical control methods work best on larger stands while mechanical control works well on smaller, isolated strands of *Sericea*. To date, the most effective and economical treatment is a herbicide combination of triclopyr and fluroxypyr (PastureGard) which can be applied throughout the growing season once the plants reach 12 inches in height, which normally occurs June through September. PastureGard is considered more "wildflower friendly" than some other herbicide choices and will not harm grasses in your pasture. Several other herbicides containing only triclopyr (Garlon 3A, Garlon 4, and Remedy) or metsulfuron (Ally, Escort) have also proven to be effective at controlling *Sericea*. Always follow specific label recommendations for the herbicide and

realize proper herbicide selection depends on many variables including whether it will be spot spraying small isolated areas, spraying larger areas with tractor type sprayer, using broadcast spray rates, time of year or even cost of the herbicide.

Prescribed burning alone is not effective at controlling *Sericea lespedeza* and fire actually stimulates the seed





Proactive mechanical or chemical approaches are the best way to control an invasive species before it takes over.

Multiflora Rose

Multiflora rose is an invasive shrub that was brought into the U.S. from Japan for a wide variety of uses including creating “living fencing” for livestock until farmers and conservationists realized just how rapidly multiflora rose spreads if left untreated in pastures. Birds and mammals love

that exists in the soil bank. However, using prescribed fire in combination with chemical control methods can be beneficial in some situations and pasture conditions. Controlling any invasive species requires patience, persistence and dedication to keep the infestation in check. You will not be able to treat *Sericea* one time and forget about it, multiple follow-up treatments over a few years will be required in order to control the species, but it can be done.

multiflora rose seed and quickly spread seeds from pasture to pasture. Multiflora rose also has a sprawling tendency which forms a very thick and impenetrable stand of woody shrubs that smothers out other desirable grasses in a pasture. With small infestations, pulling or removing individual plants from the soil can be effective method. In areas where prescribed fire is being used such as in native warm season grass pastures, using routine prescribed fire will help control the spread and

Protect Your Investments

Livestock and Pasture Insurance



Is your risk management plan adequate for your Livestock and Pasture?

The Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF) Program protects livestock producers from losses to productivity caused by poor forage conditions due to lack of rainfall. The Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) Program protects against a decline in the CME Feeders Cattle Price Index. Farmers Bank of Northern Missouri can assist you in the Risk Management of your cattle operation with a loan and or insurance to assist you in running your operation.

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establishment of multiflora rose. Another effective method is cutting stems and applying a contact herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup) to the cut stump which generally prevents re-sprouting from occurring. Cut stump methods are most effective later in the growing season (July-

September), however they can be completed during the dormant season as well. Finally, a foliar spray can be applied with success in heavier infestations. Remedy (Triclopyr) or Fosamine (Krenite S) can be applied, which includes a surfactant and should only be applied during the months of July-September. Again, always follow specific label recommendations for rates and application methods. Effects during a fall application may not be seen immediately following the treatment, but the multiflora rose will die off the following growing season. Fosamine and Remedy only eliminate broadleaf plants, so they are generally preferred to contact herbicides that will eliminate grasses in your pasture.

Only by taking a proactive mechanical or chemical approach in your pastures and by conducting early

season scouting to identify the presence of any invasive plants can you be successful at controlling Sericea

and multiflora rose. Controlling these invasive species will allow your livestock to maximize grazing opportunities on your operation for many years to come. ■

“Controlling any invasive species requires patience, persistence and dedication to keep the infestation in check.”

– Nick Prough

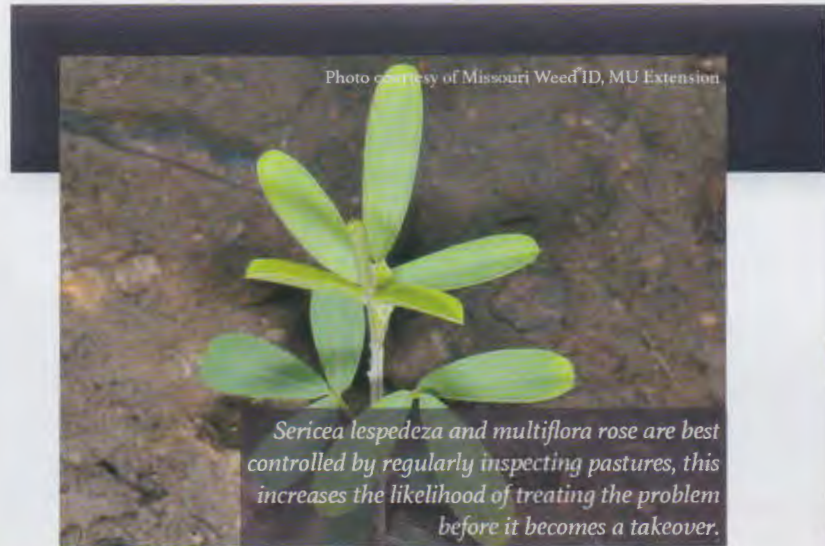


Photo courtesy of Missouri Weed ID, MU Extension

Sericea lespedeza and multiflora rose are best controlled by regularly inspecting pastures, this increases the likelihood of treating the problem before it becomes a takeover.

Sun up to sun down

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Cow & Bull Sale • Wednesday 9 am
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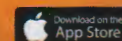
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