



10K Conservation Challenge

Upham’s 10K Conservation Challenge aims to put 10,000 hours of conservation projects into the land by the end of 2020. As of March 2020, we are at 2,134 hours. Join us remotely to continue this mission!



We want to measure your success!

Report any hours of conservation you do by calling Upham Woods 608-254-6461 or completing this survey:
https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cPepiSpnSDzhPSZ

Complete 10 hours or more on any conservation project or combination of projects and get an Upham Woods camp t-shirt!

Crown Vetch

Are you ready to be a **nature detective**? There is a plant called crown vetch that has been taking over the homes of other plants! We must get to the bottom of this! Crown vetch is considered an invasive species. It invades prairies, roadsides, barrens, fields, and open disturbed areas. This plant found its way from the Mediterranean region of Europe, northern Africa and southwest Asia. It was introduced to the United States in the 1950's and was primarily used for erosion control.





Crown vetch *Securigera varia* (*Coronilla varia*)



This plant has white to pink to purple flowers. The flowers are found in clusters of 14 - 20 on long stalks. The flower begins to bloom in spring and stays until mid-summer. The leaves are 2-6" long and grow in 11-25 narrow, oval leaflets. The leaflets always occur in an odd number. The seeds of the plant develop into long, slender, pointed seed pods containing 3-7 narrow seeds each. These seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 15 years.

Photos courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

Why is Crown Vetch a problem? It climbs over and shades out native plants, and it alters native ecosystems through nitrogen fixation. Prescribed burns increase seed germination which makes it especially hard to control in native grasslands and prairies.

What can you do to help? You can pull this plant. To pull it, reach all the way down to the bottom of the plant and pull up the full root. Make sure you put it in a garbage bag and throw it away. By doing this you ensure that the plant won't turn to seed and continue to spread.

Pull from the
base of the plant



Photo by Christopher Noll

This could be part of your career!

There are many different career opportunities in natural resources including conservation warden, land steward, wildlife biologist, and much more.

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