



CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER

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Wondrous Wisteria

Wisteria is a beautiful strong growing vine. This plant can grow to lengths of 25'-30'. Wisteria appreciates full sun and a moist well-drained soil.

We strongly recommend not planting Wisteria too close to your home as it can quickly find its way into a crack. Pruning is the secret to good flowering. It will only bloom on new wood this means you should prune Wisteria in late winter. Remove at least half of the prior year's growth, leaving just a few buds per stem.

Weed ID

Every so often I see a Facebook picture with someone asking for help to identify some lovely Iowa weeds. The following are just a few lesser known weeds we have been asked to ID in the past.

Can you name them all?



A.



The bloom set of weed A.



B.



C.



D.



E.

Answers:

- A.) Burdock
- B.) Bristly Greenbrier
- C.) Chickweed
- D.) Catchweed
- E.) Horsetail

More about **Burdock**:

Burdock is a non-native plant brought to North America by seed burrs stuck to imported animals such as cattle. According to Dr. Don Morishita, University of Idaho Professor of Weed Science and Extension Specialist, “Burdock is a bare-ground plant; it doesn’t grow well where there’s grass cover or competing plants. Don’t use Roundup. It kills everything—including grass that inhibits regrowth of burdock.” He suggests using a broadleaf selective herbicide such as 2-4D or something similar.

More about **Bristly Greenbrier**:

Oddly enough the staggering amount of thorns don't deter our wildlife from enjoying the leaves and berries of this terrifying vine. If you wonder how you may have ended up with this vine in your wooded area, look up. The

seeds that have germinated in your yard are probably the surviving few of a bird's digestive system. The University of Georgia suggests two options for control. First, if possible, unravel the vine from your desirable plant, leave the vine long, and spray with a solution of 41% Glyphosate (non-selective herbicide). You would want to place a plastic bag underneath when spraying if you are trying to prevent killing off what is growing beneath. If you cannot unravel it from your desirable plant, cut it from the root system, and then carefully treat the exposed stem. You will see better results if you can leave the top on the root system and treat the length of the vine, but do understand Glyphosate will kill all vegetation it touches.

More about **Chickweed**:

Chickweed has a shallow root system and like most annual weeds it is best controlled in the spring or fall. Mature seeds can germinate without a dormancy period. Chickweed can complete its life cycle in 5 to 6 weeks. If you choose to use pre-emergent products be sure to watch for the correct timing. Eradicating Chickweed in a perennial bed (where I find my Chickweed) can be a bit more tricky. You cannot chemically take a broadleaf out of a broadleaf. This means if you use a chemical post-emergent to treat you run the risk of hurting your desirable plants as well. Take caution when spot spraying. I tend to pull all of my Chickweed as the roots are very shallow. Be sure to pull before your plants go to seed to prevent the microscopic seeds from spreading as you pull.

More about **Catchweed**:

Catchweed is an annual weed with a number of common names including cleavers, bedstraw, catchweed bedstraw, grip grass, stickywilly, and others (<https://wimastergardener.org/article/catchweed-bedstraw-galium-aparine/>). The leaves and stems of this plant have fine hairs that stick to fur and clothing easily earning the name of Catchweed. Our nursery buyer, Justin, and I enjoy trying to stick this to the back of one of our co-workers when she isn't looking. She doesn't love it, but it is nice stress reliever for us during busy season (thank you Danielle for tolerating us). Handpulling this weed is possible because of the rather shallow root system. The stems easily snap when pulling, so be sure to get the entire root out for full eradication. Individual plants produce 300-400 seeds, so be sure to pull this weed before they set seed!

More about **Horsetail**:

Field horsetail is one of the more the most common types of Horestail found in Iowa. Although, I have been noticing a good stand of Scouring Rush on my walks along our gravel road. There are 15 species of Equisetum found worldwide. This plant is closely related to the fern family. This means it doesn't produce a seed, but rather reproduces through the production of a spore.

Field horsetail produces two distinct types of shoots. Fertile shoots are short-lived and produced in the spring. They are whitish to light brown, 6 to 12 inches tall and topped with the spore producing cone. The sterile shoots are produced after the fertile shoots and resemble miniature pine trees. They can reach heights of 10 to 20 inches. Spurge Power with the active ingredient MCPA should knock this moisture loving plant back. Keep in mind Spurge Power is a broadleaf killer, so use with caution around your perennial beds.

Chloutier, D. and A.K. Watson. 1985. Growth and regeneration of field horsetail. Weed Sci. 33:358-365. .



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