

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT:



- * 8' native grass seed drill
with or w/o tractor and operator
- * 3 - point broadcast seeder
- * Mower w/ operator

Contact the office for rental information

THINK NATIVES !



For any questions or comments about the IRVM program please contact:

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WEBSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION

IRVM

Integrated
Roadside
Vegetation
Management



IRVM

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Webster County's IRVM program

Webster County was one of the first few counties in the state of Iowa to implement an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program, (IRVM). The program has been running since 1992 and has shown tremendous benefits. The primary goal of the program is to use an integrated approach in controlling weeds, stabilizing soil, and reducing runoff, thus improving the quality of water entering our streams and rivers.

Why plant natives?

The native grasses and flowers have extensive root systems which are ideally adapted to go deep into the soil which reduces erosion. Some of these native plants have roots that can grow to thirty feet deep!

Management for native vegetation

Controlled Burning - this is probably the best option for managing native plantings. Once the vegetation has been burnt it all has to regenerate which gives the native plants a head start and allows them to out compete invasive species



Mowing - this is usually done to early plantings that aren't established enough to run a hot fire through. Mowing can help with weed control by not letting the weeds reach maturity. It is also helpful to decrease snow drifting and works well as a fire break



Spraying - this method of vegetation management uses herbicides to selectively kill certain weeds such as Canada thistle and giant ragweed. Timing is very important when spraying because different plants are more susceptible to the herbicides at various stages in their life cycle. This can be a very expensive type of management practice.



Brush Control along the roadsides

There are a couple of ways to control unwanted brush along roadsides and in fence lines. A foliar herbicide can be used that is sprayed onto the plant that will kill it and then can be cut down. The other method is to cut the brush first and then treat the stump with a herbicide, this method is called a cut-stump treatment.