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## The Green Scene

*Save a tree!* Send your email address to [lpeterse@iastate.edu](mailto:lpeterse@iastate.edu) to receive this publication via e-mail.

### How To Kill Creeping Charlie

Successfully killing creeping charlie is the dream of most homeowners who like a nice lawn. The creeping charlie plant is rivaled only by dandelions in terms of difficulty to get rid of and control. While getting rid of the creeping charlie weed is difficult, if you know a few tips and tricks about how to get rid of creeping charlie, you can beat this annoying lawn invader.

#### Identifying Creeping Charlie Weed

Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*) is often called ground ivy due to its appearance and growth habits. Creeping Charlie weed is a green vine whose leaves are round with scalloped edges. Creeping Charlie has a small purple flower. Creeping Charlie plant is most easily identified by its growth habit. It is a vine that grows close to the ground and will form a mat-like ground cover if allowed to. The vines have nodes at each of the places where leaves grow and these nodes will form roots if they come in contact with the soil. This is part of the reason that Creeping Charlie weed is so frustrating, as you cannot simply pull it up. Every rooted node can turn into a new plant if left behind.



#### How to Kill Creeping Charlie Plant

The first thing to understand when working to get rid of creeping charlie plant is that it, like most lawn weeds, thrive best in an unhealthy lawn. Be sure to use proper mowing, watering and fertilizing practices when caring for your lawn. While creeping charlie weed is considered a broadleaf weed, it is not affected by all broadleaf spectrum herbicides. The only weed killers that are successful at killing creeping charlie are weed killers that contain dicamba. Even dicamba is only successful if applied several times at the right time. In order to kill creeping charlie, you must apply dicamba based herbicide to your lawn in early fall when creeping charlie plant is growing most actively, which will leave it weakened enough so that it will have a difficult time surviving the winter. You can also apply in the late spring to early summer, but late spring to early summer applications will stall rather than eradicate creeping charlie in your lawn. Also, only apply dicamba herbicide 3 days after mowing and do not mow for 3 days after applying it. This will allow the creeping charlie to grow more leaves, which will cause it to take in more herbicide and then will allow time for the herbicide to work through the plant's system.

You can get rid of creeping charlie in flower beds by either hand pulling (after rain or watering works best) or with smothering techniques, either using several layers of newspaper or a thick application of mulch, or even both together. After taking steps to control creeping charlie in your flower beds, keep a close eye out for it to reappear. Immediately remove any small creeping charlie plants that appear.

While many sources recommend Borax to kill creeping charlie, understand that this method can also easily kill your other plants as well. Not only that but using Borax to get rid of creeping charlie does not often work. It is best to avoid using Borax for killing creeping charlie.

# Mark Your Calendar...

**July 15-21**—Marion County Fair

**July 28th**—Pella Ag in the City (Register for Wheels in Bloom), Contact Pella Chamber for more information

## 2016 Marion County Fair Open Classes

**Forms Due July 1st by noon to the Secretary at the Marion County Fairgrounds  
Drop off for Open Class Exhibits is July 14th from 3-7pm at the East door of Dyer Hudson**

### *Open Classes Include*

Fruits and Grains, Seeds and Vegetables—Judging July 15th at 10:30am

Textiles—Judging July 15th at 2pm

Flower Arrangements Group 1—Judging July 16th at 10:30am

Horticulture—Judging July 17th at 3pm

Flower Arrangement Group 2—Judging July 18th at 10:30am

## Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

### **What is a Pioneer Cemetery**

The Iowa Code defines a pioneer cemetery as having 12 or fewer burials in the past 50 years. Marion County has a total of 110 cemeteries; 56 have been identified as pioneer.

### **Mission**

Over the past 10 years, members of Marion County had become concerned about the state of the pioneer cemeteries in the county. With our proximity to the Des Moines River, Marion County has a very high number of pioneer cemeteries, often found in the back of cornfields...at the end of dead-end roads...along the fence rows of pastures. And many of these were in poor condition, some even being obliterated and no longer recognizable.

The Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission (MCPCC) believes these cemeteries should be preserved for three reasons:



It's a matter of respect. Just because there are no families left to care for these resting places doesn't mean, we believe, that these cemeteries should simply be farmed over or left to disintegrate.

It's a matter of history. A walk among the stones of many of these cemeteries reveals the resting places of Marion County's first pioneers. Dozens of people contact the MCPCC each year wanting information on ancestors. Our cemeteries are living history books.

It's a matter of art and culture. The stonework, designs, and prose found on these stones are no longer manufactured on modern gravestones. They are works of artistic beauty. The sites for the cemeteries themselves are usually in lovely locations and need to be preserved.

In June 2011, after being petitioned by Marion County residents, the Marion County Board of Supervisors chartered the MCPCC with the task of identifying, restoring, and maintaining pioneer cemeteries in the county that are not already being cared for by another entity.



*"The Green Scene" is a tip sheet developed by the Marion County Extension Office to inform people of horticulture events, problems, and interesting ideas. Let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list. Recent issues are also available at [www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/).*

*This material has been prepared by Lauren Petersen, Agriculture Program Assistant.*

*If you have questions, please contact the office at (641) 842-2014. Sincerely, Dale R. Miller, County Extension Program Director*