Crown Vetch (*Coronilla varia*)

**NATIVE TO:** Europe, Southeast Asia, and Northern Africa.

**CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IN ILLINOIS:** Widely common and distributed throughout the state.

**IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:** Herbaceous perennial with pinnately compound alternate leaves. Leaves each 2 to 6 in long with 15 to 26 pairs of ¾” oval leaflets. Blooms from May or June to August with pinkish lavender to white 1” flowers born on extended stalks.

**IMPORTANCE:** A fast growing ground cover often used for erosion control projects this species can quickly overtake other species.

**HABITAT:** Meadow, streambanks, roadsides, woodland edges, and agriculture fields.

**MANAGEMENT:** Hand pulling is useful in isolated areas. Controlled burning has proven effective in natural areas. Chemical treatments of clopyralid specifically target crown vetch whereas non-selective treatments of glyphosate are effective.

Above: Typical plant growth. 
Right: Crown Vetch growing as a dense ground cover.

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**ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY**

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Photos: Mike Garrett.