

SERICEA LESPEDEZA

(*Lespedeza cuneata*)

KNOW THE WEED. STOP THE SPREAD.



WHAT IS SERICEA LESPEDEZA?

Sericea lespedeza is a perennial noxious weed in Kansas.



Grows 2–5 feet tall with many branching stems from a woody root.



Leaves have three small leaflets (¼–1 inch long), wedge- or club-shaped.



Cream-colored flowers with purple markings.

FLOWERING: August – Frost

FRUITING: September – Frost



WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Sericea lespedeza can spread quickly, crowd out desirable plants, and produce large amounts of seed. It is difficult and expensive to control once established.



KANSAS LAW REQUIRES ACTION

Under the Kansas Noxious Weed Act (K.S.A. 2-1313a et seq.), landowners are required to control and eradicate sericea lespedeza on all lands they own or supervise.



CHEMICAL CONTROL (HERBICIDES)

Herbicides are the most reliable tool for reducing and eradicating populations.

- **EARLY SUMMER** (June–July): Apply broadleaf-selective herbicides (such as PastureGard® HL, Remedy® Ultra or 2% glyphosate) when plants are actively growing and at least 8 inches tall.
- **LATE SUMMER / BLOOM STAGE** (August–September): Apply products such as metsulfuron methyl (Escort® XP) or other labeled options when plants move into the bud and flower stage.

Always read and follow herbicide label directions.



CULTURAL & MECHANICAL METHODS



MOWING

Cut plants close to the ground during the late-bud stage for 2–3 consecutive years to reduce plant vigor and seed production. Does not eliminate the root system.



GRAZING

Intensive stocking with goats can suppress growth because goats readily eat sericea lespedeza. Cattle tend to avoid mature, woody stems.



PRESCRIBED FIRE

Use fire cautiously. Dormant or spring burning alone can scarify seeds and enhance germination. Burning can be used to clear old growth before applying herbicides to actively growing regrowth.



CONTROLLING SERICEA LESPEDEZA TAKES TIME AND CONSISTENCY

Controlling sericea lespedeza requires a multi-year commitment because its seeds remain viable in the soil for over 20 years. The most effective strategy combines proper herbicide application timing with cultural management like targeted grazing or strategic mowing.



MONITOR & FOLLOW UP

Seeds can stay in the soil for many years. Dormant seeds may germinate even after control. Monitor treated areas regularly and treat new plants early to prevent them from producing seed and spreading.



IMPORTANT

Do not allow sericea lespedeza to produce seed.

PREVENT SEED PRODUCTION.

REPEAT TREATMENTS.

PROTECT OUR LAND.



KNOW THE WEED. CONTROL THE SPREAD.

Help keep Linn Valley clean and healthy.