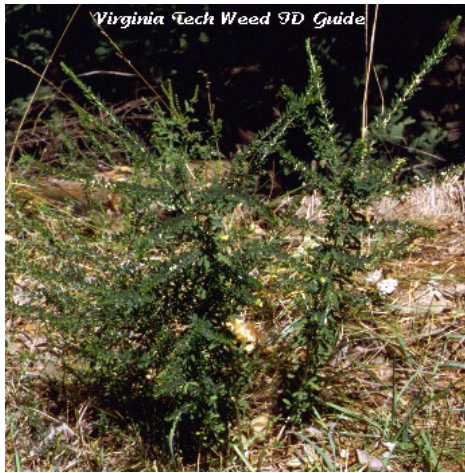


SERICEA LESPEDEZA

Lespedeza cuneata



Virginia Tech Weed Guide

Mature Height	3 to 6 feet	Soil Type	All Types
Mature Spread	Single Stem Branched Forb	Flower Color	Pale Creamy- Yellow
Mature Form	Erect	Foliage Color	Light Green
Growth Rate	Moderate	Fall Color	Ashy to Brown
Sun Exposure	Prefers Full Sun- Survives partial shade		
Soil Moisture	Dry to Wet		

Sericea grows in places where other plants cannot. It fixes nitrogen, so it can survive in poor soils. Although introduced from Asia in hopes of providing food for wildlife, sericea lespedeza is unpalatable compared to native species because of the high concentration of tannins in its tissues. Sericea has a deep taproot allowing it to outcompete native plants for water and nutrients. It drops 1,000 or more seeds from each stem, and these can remain viable for over twenty years. It is a perennial and takes on a woody appearance. Very difficult to control. The best control appears to be the use of a herbicide containing triclopyr as the active ingredient, but since seed may remain viable in the soil for years, control is a long and continuous process. Sheep and goats eat the plants.



Chris Moorman—North Carolina State



Invasives.org



Sheepandgoat.com



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

