SERICEA LESPEDEZA

Lespedeza cuneata

**Mature Height** 3 to 6 feet  **Soil Type** All Types

**Mature Spread** Single Stem  **Flower Color** Pale Creamy-Yellow

Branched Forb  

**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.