Sericea Lespedeza Planting Suggestions for Researchers

J.A. Mosjidis

1. Plant on upland soil.

2. Soil should be fertilized and limed according to a soil test.


4. Plant seed broadcast as soon as danger of killing frost had passed.

5. Weed Control in Sericea Lespedeza - You will find in Attachment 1 the herbicides and their dosages to be used in establishment and in established fields. The herbicides that give a better result in sericea lespedeza are NOT APPROVED FOR COMMERCIAL USE.

6. Firm seedbed just before planting.

7. Planting depth 1/4"

8. Planting can be done using
   a) a (plot) drill (Fig.1) or
   b) a cultipacker-seeder (Brillion type) (Fig. 2) or
   c) broadcast the seed and firm it with a cultipacker

9. The following seeding rates are suggested:
   
   20 lbs./acre if a herbicide is used.
   30 lbs./acre if a herbicide is not used.

10. After planting, firm soil with a cultipacker or roller if not using a drill. Seed should not be covered with more than 1/4 inch of soil.
Fig. 1. A. Plot drill, B. Regular drill.
**Attachment 1**

**Weed Control in Sericea Lespedeza**

*** The **ONLY APPROVED HERBICIDE FOR SERICEA LESPEDEZA** is EPTAM (preplant incorporated but it is difficult to find and it does a poor job). **2,4-DB amine is recommended for any legume seedling. Pursuit** is registered for POST-EMERGENCE applications at 71 g/ha to either recently established seedlings or perennial stands of forage legumes including alfalfa, clover, crownvetch, birdsfoot trefoil and lespedeza (we assume that includes sericea lespedeza).

**Pursuit**: apply at recommended dose. Can be applied PRE- during seeding or POST-EMERGENCE to mature stands. It has not been evaluated post-emergence in the year of establishment. Controls many weeds and is especially good for control of nutsedge.

**Establishment (sericea ½ in. in height, 14 days after planting) and Summer Growth of Older Plantings**

- **To control grasses**
  
  Apply Poast 0.3 # a.i./acre mixed with Agridex 1 quart/acre (or any crop oil with a conc. of 86% petroleum oil and 16% nonionic surfactant). Agitation is needed.
  
  or  
  
  Fusilade 0.2 # a.i./acre mixed with Agridex 1 quart/acre. Agitation is needed.

- **To control broad leaf weeds**
  
  If you have controlled grasses with the above herbicides wait 2 days before applying Butyrac for control of broad leaf weeds
  
  Apply Butyrac, use the amine formulation if sericea is near cotton, 0.5 # a.i./acre mixed with X77 0.25 % v/v.
  
  Repeat 2 weeks later or as needed.

2,4-D does not cause a major damage to sericea. It can be used in experiments when damage to other crops is unlikely.

**Established fields (at least one year old)**

To be applied right before Spring growth (February-March):

- **Fields infected with bermudagrass, crabgrass, broadleaf weeds, nutsedge**
  
  Apply a mixture of  
  
  Paraquat, 0.5-1.0 # a.i./acre  
  
  Aatrex, 2 # a.i./acre in sandy soils or 3 #a.i./acre in fine soils.
  
  If nutsedge is present you may use Zorial, 1-2 # a.i./acre (agitation is particularly important. Sericea can be severely damaged). **A better choice is Pursuit**

**Control of dodder in sericea lespedeza**

Roundup at the rate of 0.15 lb. of a.i./acre, equivalent to about 5 oz. of product per acre.
has been reported to control dodder in sericea. HOWEVER, there is a chance that you may loose the sericea that year and/or that you may not be able to harvest seed. It may be wise to try this treatment in a small surface such as one acre before spraying a whole field to test the effect of the herbicide on both the crop and the weed.

Remember: Herbicides work well when a) there is GOOD SOIL MOISTURE and b) weeds are SMALL

Agridex: oil wetter
Butyrac: 2,4-DB
Paraquat: for defoliation and dessication
Aatrex: atrazine, for broad leaf weeds
Zorial: norflurazon, for nutseedge and many other weeds