

Sericea Lespedeza Planting Suggestions for Researchers

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1. Plant on upland soil.
2. Soil should be fertilized and limed according to a soil test.
3. Plant on a well-prepared, firm seedbed.
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.



Fig. 2

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 1/2 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 lose 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

Agri-dex: oil wetter

Butyrac: 2,4-DB

Paraquat: for defoliation and dessication

Aatrex: atrazine, for broad leaf weeds

Zorial: norflurazon, for nutsedge and many other weeds