

Plant Name: Partridge Pea

Scientific name: *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (Michx.) Greene

Short Description:

Partridge Pea is an annual legume with bright yellow flowers and an excellent food source for a variety of birds.

Description:

Partridge Pea is an annual erect legume adapted to a wide geographic area from Maine to Florida, west to South Dakota and Colorado, south through central Texas. It does not compete well in established grasslands but thrives in disturbed areas with an annual rainfall of 15 to 45 inches. Partridge pea grows on a wide range of soils but does best on neutral well drained sites. Partridge pea produces pods with multiple flat black seeds which open up and shatter the seed when mature. It is a prolific seed producer and can become invasive after a few years.

Use:

Landscape: attractive in mass plantings as well as in species mixes, fairly aggressive

Wildlife: seed is an excellent food source; insect attractant and cover for game birds

Erosion control: when combined with grasses, forbs, and legumes

Taxonomic Classification:

Partridge Pea

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Magnoliopsida
Subclass	Asteridae
Order	Asterales
Family	Asteraceae
Genus	<i>Chamaecrista</i>
Species	<i>fasciculata</i> (Michx.) Greene

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	16 to 48 inches
Growth habit:	stems erect and branching
Bloom color:	bright yellow flowers one-inch wide in clusters of 2 to 7
Bloom period:	mid-summer to early fall
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	green with 12 to 36 linear leaflet pairs
Seeds per pound:	65,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	65 degrees F
Soil pH range:	5.5 to 7.5
Planting Rate:	3.5 oz/1000 sq ft or 10 lbs/acre
Planting Depth:	¼ to ¾ inch
Planting season:	spring; fall

