

Plant Name: Roundhead Lespedeza

Scientific name: *Lespedeza capitata*

Short Description:

Roundhead Lespedeza is a native legume with silvery sheen green foliage.

Description:

Roundhead lespedeza is a native warm-season perennial legume adapted to all but northern tier states of the tall prairie region of the central and eastern United States. Roundhead lespedeza is very desirable component of warm season grass plantings. It is readily grazed by all classes of livestock and is an important food source for upland game birds. Although found in lowland prairie sites it tends to be more common in upland sites. The attractive silvery sheen green foliage makes it an attractive plant for the garden. Roundhead lespedeza does not spread aggressively by rhizomes and is not a prolific seed producer.

Cultivars: Kanoka' (1998 release by the USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center in Manhattan Kansas.

Use:

Landscape: attractive in mass plantings as well as in species mixes

Wildlife: excellent food source, insect attractant and cover for game birds

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

Taxonomic Classification:

Roundhead Lespedeza

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Magnoliopsida
Subclass	Asteridae
Order	Asterales
Family	Asteraceae
Genus	<i>Lespedeza</i>
Species	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>



Plant Characteristics:

Height:	24 to 60 inches
Growth habit:	stiff erect stems with limited branching at the top
Bloom color:	white with purple spot on banner petal
Bloom period:	late summer
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	green with silvery sheen large leaflets
Seeds per pound:	125,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	65 degrees F
Soil pH range:	6.5 to 8.0
Planting Rate:	3 oz/1000 or 8 lbs/acre
Planting Depth:	¼ to ½ inch
Planting season:	spring; fall