

May

Invasive of the Month



Sericea Lespedeza (Lespedeza Cuneata)

Sericea lespedeza, colloquially known as Chinese bush clover, was brought to the United States in the 1890s as forage for livestock and erosion control. However, due to its ability to tolerate shallow, low fertile soils, and drought, it quickly overtook the landscape and is now considered invasive in 31 states. Additionally, it produces chemicals, such as tannins, that inhibit the growth of native vegetation and make it unpalatable to livestock and wildlife.

How to identify:

This plant is found in open habitats such as roadsides, meadows, fields, and pond edges. It is a shrubby perennial weed in the legume family that typically grows up to 6 feet tall. The stems grow tightly clustered and densely leafed. The leaves grow in groups of three (trifoliate) and are club or wedge shaped. The flowers appear from mid July to early October, they are yellowish-white with pink or purple markings.

Invasive Species Program

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