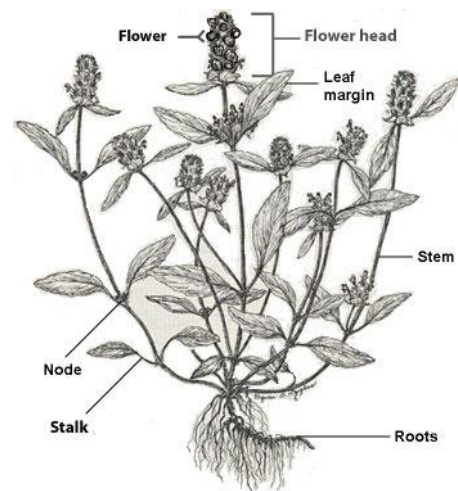


BROADLEAF WEEDS

TITLE:	LESPEDEZA (JAPANESE CLOVER)
LATIN NAME:	<i>Lespedeza striata</i>
FAMILY:	Fabaceae / Leguminosae Bean family
OVERALL DESCRIPTION:	
A mat-forming, wiry-stemmed, prostrate summer-annual with dark green trifoliate (arranged in threes) leaves. <i>Lespedeza striata</i> , also known as Common Lespedeza and Japanese clover, was recently renamed <i>Kummerowia striata</i> . Originally introduced from Korea in 1919 as a forage crop for cattle.	
LIFE CYCLE	Annual
SEASONS OF GROWTH	Summer
FLOWERS/SEEDHEADS	Flowers in late summer with small pink to purple, single flowers found in leaf axils on most of the nodes of the main stems. Seed heads found in leaf axis.
LEAF SHAPE	Oblong-elliptic
LEAF EDGES	Its leaves have smooth edges and a short spur at the tip of each leaflet.
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Alternate compound
GROWTH HABIT	It grows very low to the ground and forms 15-18 inch patches. The stems are wiry.
FULL LEAF SIZE	¼-1" long and approximately half as much across.
STEM CHARACTERISTICS	Purplish with appressed white hairs that point downward
ROOT	Tap
ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS	Also occurs in fields, open woods, roadsides and other disturbed sites.
TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH	Prefers moist conditions and clay, loam, sand, and shallow rocky soil



Common Typical Broadleaf Weed Structure

KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER	Very common summer weed that can easily choke out thin turf. To discourage Lespedeza's growth, it is recommended to increase the mowing height - and to keep the soil's pH and fertility at correct levels for the turf grass species
CULTURAL CONTROL	Maintain healthy dense turf or groundcover.
MECHANICAL CONTROL	Hand pulling or using an appropriate weeding tool are the primary means of mechanical weed control in lawns. This is a viable option at the beginning of an infestation and on young weeds. Hand pulling when the soil is moist makes the task easier.
CHEMICAL CONTROL	Herbicides should be used as a last resort. Table 5.9, PMG: Products containing 2,-D, Dicamba, Triclopyr. Preferred time to treat: Spring
SOURCES OF INFORMATION	<p>University of Maryland Extension https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/common-lespedeza-or-japanese-clover</p> <p>VCE, 2020 Pest Management Guide https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/456/456-018/ENTO-336.pdf</p> <p>North Carolina State Extension https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/weeds-in-turf/common-lespedeza/</p>
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