

# Lespedeza, Common

[*Lespedeza striata* (Thunb.) Schind]

## DESCRIPTION

Lespedeza is a dark green, wiry summer annual with trifoliate leaves. Several wide-spreading prostrate branches come from the slender taproot. It grows close to the ground and seldom is cut by a mower. It is a very common summer weed, choking out thin turf. Hairs grow downward on the stem. Leaves are composed of three leaflets. Stipules are light to reddish brown. Small single flowers arise from the leaf axils on most of the nodes of the main stems and are pink or purple.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	summer annual weed
Growth Habit	prostrate, spreading
Leaflet Number	three
Leaf Margin	smooth
Leaf Hairs	may be some along the midveins and margins only
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	elliptical to oblong
Leaf Width	<1/2 inch to 1 inch
Leaf Venation	pinnate; prominent midvein on each leaflet, many parallel veins almost perpendicular to the midvein
Leaf Arrangement	alternate
Root Type	fibrous
Flower Color	flowers can range from pink to purple



common lespedeza root nodules



common lespedeza

Note: Still not sure this is the right weed? [The Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid](#) may help. Check the TurfFiles [glossary](#) for definitions of unfamiliar terms.

## CULTURAL CONTROL

Maintain a dense, actively growing turf through proper mowing, fertilizing, and watering practices. Mow at the proper height for your selected adapted turfgrass. Coring and traffic control reduce compaction and encourage desirable turfgrass competition. It is best to control this summer annual broadleaf weed in late spring or early summer because it is easier to control at this time and the turf will have a greater chance of recovering the areas previously occupied by weeds.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL

Common lespedeza is a difficult-to-control summer annual broadleaf weed that can be effectively controlled postemergence in the spring with products containing fluroxypyr (e.g., Spotlight, Escalade 2) or triclopyr (e.g., Turflon Ester). Manor (metsulfuron) will also provide good to excellent control.

### *Preemergence herbicides:*

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Efficacy Rating <sup>(2)</sup>	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products <sup>(3)</sup>
atrazine*	be, c, sa, z	E		0	AAtrex 4L
simazine	be, c, sa, z	E		0	Princep

### *Postemergence herbicides:*

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Efficacy Rating <sup>(2)</sup>	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products <sup>(3)</sup>
2,4-D & dicamba & fluroxypyr	ba, bc, be, bk, f, r, sa, z	E	100	2	Escalade
atrazine*	be, c, sa, z	E		0	AAtrex 4L
clopyralid & triclopyr**	be, bk, c, f, r, z	E		0	Confront
dicamba	ba, be, bk, f, r, z	E		0	Banvel, Clarity, Vanquish
glyphosate		E		0	Glyphosate Original, Roundup, Touchdown Pro**
metribuzin	be	E		0	Sencor 75 Turf
metsulfuron	be, sa, z	E		0	Escort**, Manor

\* For use only by or under the supervision of a certified applicator, or by commercial nursery, turf, and landscape personnel.

\*\* Not for application to residential lawns.

### **Footnotes:**

#### (1) **Turfgrass Codes:**

- ba bahiagrass
- bc bentgrass, creeping
- be bermudagrass
- bk bluegrass, Kentucky

c	centipedegrass
f	fescue, tall
r	ryegrass, perennial
sa	St. Augustinegrass
z	zoysiagrass
blank	No turfgrass in the database is completely tolerant. Check label to see if chemical can be used at a reduced rate or during the dormant season on your turfgrass.

(2) **Efficacy Ratings:**

E	excellent control (90 to 100%)
G	good control (80 to 90%)
F	fair control (70 to 80%)

Efficacy ratings are based on herbicide trials performed by weed scientists at North Carolina State University between 1997 and 2007. The number of trials included in the efficacy ratings is displayed in the next-to-last column. The higher this number, the more confidence can be placed in the efficacy values. Trials may have involved sequential applications of one or more chemical. Details of individual trials (herbicide rates, dates of application, environmental conditions at time of application, etc) can be viewed on the TurfFiles web site, through the [Turf Weed Management Decision Aid](#).

Efficacy ratings for chemicals lacking trial data are from "[Pest Management Strategic Plan for Turfgrass in the Southern United States](#)," a summary of a workshop for turf experts from multiple universities held in Griffin, GA in October, 2004. The workshop was sponsored by the Southern Region Integrated Pest Management Center.

- (3) Recommendations of specific chemicals are based upon information on the manufacturer's label and performance in a limited number of trials. Because environmental conditions and methods of application may vary widely, performance of the chemical will not always conform to the safety and pest control standards indicated by experimental data. The order in which brand names are given is not an indication of a recommendation or criticism.

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University or discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Other brand names may be labeled for use on turfgrasses. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county's Cooperative Extension agent.

**Links contained in this document:**

Glossary: <http://www.turf-files.ncsu.edu/Glossary.aspx>

Pest Management Strategic Plan: <http://www.ipmcenters.org/pmsp/pdf/SouthernTurfgrass.pdf>

Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid: <http://www.turf-files.ncsu.edu/turfid/>

Turf Weed Management Decision Aid: <http://www.turf-files.ncsu.edu/turfweedmgmt/>

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