

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative O'Brien - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission
Richard Jones, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
John Kabus, CWDAK Legislative Committee Chairman & Shawnee County Noxious Weed Director
Mike Beam, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association
Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau
Steven Graham, Assistant to Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension (written only)
Clint Riley, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Hearing on SB 548 - Control and eradication of sericea lespedeza

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 548**. Raney Gilliland explained that effective July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2005, **SB 548** would (1) permit the Secretary of Agriculture to designate any county as a sericea lespedeza disaster area to provide for the control and eradication within that county; (2) give specific authority to the conservation districts in the state to control and eradicate sericea lespedeza in those counties within the district where a disaster has been declared; and (3) permit monies distributed from the state to conservation districts to be used for the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza on both public and private lands in areas declared as a disaster. Other amendments in the bill are technical in nature.

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 548** to require the department to develop the criteria to be used to declare counties sericea lespedeza disaster areas. She explained that this proposal would provide landowners in highly infested parts of the state an opportunity to obtain cost-share assistance to contain this invasive weed. The proposal could also provide a mechanism to obtain federal funds should any be made available to address invasive plants and pests. The Secretary submitted a technical amendment to **SB 548** to delete the words "and direction" on page 1, line 41, of the bill. (Attachment 1)

Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, appeared in support of **SB 548** and reported on the results of an informal survey of 20 county conservation districts in southeast Kansas regarding their role in addressing sericea lespedeza. He indicated that initial program and policy development costs could be absorbed by the agency, however, implementation would require additional funding. (Attachment 2)

Richard Jones, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, testified in support of **SB 548** stating that Conservation Districts are the natural resource experts at the local level. Conservation Districts in southeast Kansas are especially interested in controlling or eradicating sericea lespedeza. He believes a new source of funding should be made available for this program. (Attachment 3)

John Kabus, CWDAK Legislative Committee Chairman & Shawnee County Noxious Weed Director, appeared in support of **SB 548** that could supply needed help if federal resources become available. The CWDAK requested that language be added to **SB 548** to require the Department of Agriculture to communicate with the Board of County Commissioners of any county prior to designating their county a sericea lespedeza disaster area. (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mike Beam, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association, offered support for **SB 548**. He noted that several bills are pending in Congress to provide funds for invasive weed species control programs. **SB 548** would provide a state-local program that could quickly and efficiently administer federal monies should they become available through the passage of federal legislation. (Attachment 5)

Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, presented testimony in support of **SB 548**. She reported that **SB 548** is compatible with KFB's policy position on noxious weed control and represents a commitment by the state to help access funding and allow for the granting of funds for addressing sericea lespedeza infestations. (Attachment 6)

There being no opponents, Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **SB 548**.

Hearing, discussion and action on Sub SB 556 - Sericea lespedeza control and eradication research and demonstration efforts

The Chairman opened the hearing on **Sub SB 556**. Raney Gilliland explained that this bill would require the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks, to designate a parcel of land as a research area to study and demonstrate methods of controlling or eradicating sericea lespedeza. The parcel would be designated on land managed by the KDWP at Toronto Lake. The two secretaries would have the authority to request assistance from any federal, state, or local authority; any public or private university or other research institution; any business organization; or any individual. The provisions of the bill would sunset on June 30, 2007.

Steven Graham, Assistant to Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension, submitted written testimony in support of **Sub SB 556**. With his testimony he included a copy of the recent research update by Dr. Walt Fick entitled "Sericea Lespedeza Management and Control Project." (Attachment 7)

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **Sub SB 556** stating that all parties should work together to coordinate, enhance, and continue sericea lespedeza control efforts. (Attachment 1)

Clint Riley, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, testified in support of **Sub SB 556** to establish a research and experiment station at Toronto State Park to study the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza. (Attachment 8)

Mike Beam, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association, appeared in support of **Sub SB 556** to develop a research and experiment station at Toronto State Park with the focus on sericea lespedeza control. (Attachment 5)

Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified in support of **Sub SB 556** to designate of an area at Toronto State Park to further research into control procedures for addressing sericea lespedeza infestations. (Attachment 6)

As there were no opponents, the Chairman closed the hearing and opened discussion on **Sub SB 556**. Representative Compton moved to recommend Sub SB 556 favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

Discussion and action on SB 548 - Control and eradication of sericea lespedeza

Representative Freeborn moved to amend SB 548 as requested by the Secretary of Agriculture by striking the words "and direction" on page 1, line 41, of the bill. Seconded by Representative Schwartz, the motion carried.

Representative Thimesch moved to amend SB 548 on page 1, line 35, after "Commencing on July 1, 2002, and ending on June 30, 2005," by adding the words "upon request of the Board of County Commissioners of

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE on March 11, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

any county.” The motion was seconded by Representative Ostmeyer. After much discussion, the motion failed.

Representative Larkin moved to amend SB 548 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to consult with the Board of County Commissioners of any county prior to designating the county a sericea lespedeza disaster area. Also, pursuant to declaration of such designation, the Board of County Commissioners could adopt a resolution to opt out of such designation. The motion was seconded by Representative Thimesch.

A request to divide the amendment was made by Representative Feuerborn. The Chairman allowed the division.

Representative Larkin, seconded by Representative Schwartz, moved to amend SB 548 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to consult with the Board of County Commissioners of any county prior to designating the county a sericea lespedeza disaster area. The motion carried.

Representative Larkin, seconded by Representative Thimesch, moved to amend SB 548 to allow the Board of County Commissioners of any county, pursuant to being declared a sericea lespedeza disaster area, to adopt a resolution to opt out of such designation. The motion failed.

Representative Larkin moved to recommend SB 548, as amended, favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2002.

STATE OF KANSAS

BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary of Agriculture
109 SW 9th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1280
(785) 296-3556
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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

House Agriculture Committee

March 11, 2002

Testimony Regarding SB 548 and SB 556

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary of Agriculture

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today to support Senate Bill 548 and Senate Bill 556 as amended.

Senate Bill 548

SB 548 requires the department to develop the criteria that will be used to declare counties sericea lespedeza disaster areas. Given the critical nature of this issue, KDA would redirect staff resources to accomplish this task. The proposal would provide landowners in highly infested parts of the state an opportunity to obtain cost-share assistance to contain this invasive weed. The proposal could also provide a mechanism to obtain federal funds, should any be made available to address invasive plants and pests.

As the supplemental note on this bill indicates, technical amendments were made by the Senate Agriculture Committee in section 1 to reflect the current organization of the department and its current scope of noxious weed work. However, one item was missed. For your consideration, I have attached an amendment to complete the clean-up of this portion of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law.

Senate Bill 556

The department wholeheartedly supports the purpose of SB 556 — all parties should work together to coordinate, enhance and continue sericea lespedeza control efforts. It also requires the department to cooperate with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in efforts to use Toronto State Park to explore solutions to sericea lespedeza infestations. KDA will work on this project, as we have on all other efforts to manage and contain sericea lespedeza, because it is crucial to Kansas agriculture.

KDA Efforts to Address Sericea Lespedeza Infestations

For nearly a decade, the department has been actively involved in many efforts to address sericea lespedeza infestations. These include:

- KDA obtained a Section 18 special registration exemption from EPA to use Vista + Remedy for sericea lespedeza control in 2001 and 2002. Since this mix is most effective when it is used
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before flowering, KDA will again publish an emergency regulation to allow counties to cost-share this tank mix for sericea lespedeza control.

- In 1998, KDA played an active role in the formation of the Sericea Lespedeza Multi-State Workgroup, and we continue to work with this group to promote awareness and control of sericea lespedeza within the region. For the past three years, Kansas has hosted the annual meeting of the four states (Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma) currently active in the group. The group is composed of ranchers, producer groups, and county, state and federal agencies. Brochures, posters and a briefing for elected officials and agency secretaries held in February 2000, at the KDA office are some of the accomplishments of this group. Meetings are planned this summer for landowners and public land managers along the borders of Kansas to enhance cooperation across the state line.
- In 1993, KDA signed an MOU with Ft. Riley to enhance the control of noxious weeds at the installation. This cooperative effort has resulted in an accurate inventory of weed problems at Ft. Riley and greater efforts to control noxious weeds. Ft. Riley currently is completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will allow the aerial application of herbicides to control sericea lespedeza. KDA was a respondent in support of the EA.
- KDA currently is working with the Corps of Engineers in both the Kansas City and Tulsa districts to develop a cooperative agreement similar to the MOU with Ft. Riley. This agreement will improve the lines of communication at both the state and local level, resulting in improved noxious weed control, particularly control of sericea lespedeza, at federal reservoirs. The authority to enter into the MOU with Ft. Riley and the cooperative agreement with the Corps of Engineers is provided in the Federal Plant Protection Act and Kansas' plant pest and noxious weed laws.
- Training to help with the identification and control of sericea lespedeza has been provided to county weed directors at their monthly district meetings. This is very important to the western half of Kansas, where sericea is not as abundant and early detection and control are vital.
- KDA petitioned the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) to add sericea lespedeza to the list of species whose propagative parts would be prohibited in hay certified to the North American Weed Free Forage program standards. KDA signed an agreement with NAWMA to certify forage and mulch to standards adopted by NAWMA. This gave Kansas producers access to markets for certified forage and mulch in other states. Certification is necessary only when it is required by the end user.
- For each noxious weed, KDA has provided to KDWP and KDOT suggested management plans that take into account their various land use schemes.
- For two years, KDA provided pass-through funding for sericea lespedeza research conducted by Kansas State University and Emporia State University. Some of this research included a grazing study in cooperation with KDWP at Melvern Reservoir, herbicide trials, sericea lespedeza webworm biocontrol studies and research into the basic biology of sericea lespedeza.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today to support these bills. I would stand for questions at the appropriate time.

SENATE BILL No. 548

By Committee on Agriculture

2-8

AN ACT concerning agriculture; relating to control and eradication of sericea lespedeza; powers of secretary of agriculture; expenditures by conservation districts; amending K.S.A. 2-1315, 2-1908 and 2-1915 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2-1315 is hereby amended to read as follows: 2-1315. The ~~state board~~ secretary of agriculture is hereby empowered to decide and adopt methods as official for control and eradication of noxious weeds and to publish such methods, and to make and publish such rules and regulations as in its *the secretary's* judgment are necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act, and to alter or suspend such rules and regulations when necessary. ~~There is hereby created within the state board~~ ~~department~~ of agriculture, a noxious weeds division which shall consist of a director, assistant directors and other employees all of whom shall be under the classified service of the Kansas civil service act. The ~~state board secretary~~ of agriculture is authorized to appoint a director of the noxious weeds division and fix the director's salary, and such director shall be the executive officer thereof and shall be under the supervision of the secretary of the board. The ~~state board secretary~~ of agriculture may establish not to exceed five (5) noxious weed control districts within this state and define the boundaries ~~thereof, of such districts~~. Such districts ~~to be constituted shall be established~~ to provide for the most efficient control and eradication of noxious weeds and for the most economical supervision thereof by the state. *Commencing on July 1, 2002, and ending on June 30, 2005, the secretary may designate any county as a sericea lespedeza disaster area to provide for the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza within such county.*

The ~~director, with the approval of the board secretary,~~ shall appoint an assistant state weed control director for each district so established, and it shall be the duty of each such assistant ~~to secretary may consult,~~ advise, *or* render assistance ~~and direction~~ to county and city weed supervisors as to the best and most practical methods of noxious weed control and eradication ~~and to render every possible assistance and direction to~~

1-3





State Conservation Commission

109 SW 9th Street
Suite 500, Mills Building
Topeka, KS 66612-1299

Telephone: (785) 296-3600 • Fax (785) 296-6172



House Agriculture Committee March 11, 2002

Testimony on Senate Bill 548 Tracy Streeter, Executive Director

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 548. This bill amends K.S.A. 2-1908 to enable conservation districts located in disaster-declared counties to control and eradicate *Sericea Lespedeza*. SB 548 also amends K.S.A. 2-1915 to allow state grants, up to 80 percent of the total costs, to be provided for the control and eradication of the species. SB 548 places a sunset provision on each amendment of June 30, 2005.

The State Conservation Commission has conducted an informal survey of 20 county conservation districts in southeast Kansas regarding their role in addressing *Sericea Lespedeza*. Twelve counties responded and below is a summary of the responses:

1. Twelve conservation districts expressed a need for assistance to address *Sericea*.
2. Eleven conservation districts expressed an interest in implementing a program to address *Sericea*.
3. Seven conservation districts indicated their interest in implementing a program is based upon receiving additional cost-share funding from the state.
4. One district recommended additional funding be provided to the county noxious weed departments to control *Sericea*.

Although the State Conservation Commission is not specifically mentioned in SB 548, K.S.A. 2-1915 provides much of the statutory basis for SCC cost-share programs. Any time new programs are proposed, I as an administrator am concerned about the impact on existing programs and the ability of the agency to carry out its responsibilities. However, should financial assistance be appropriated to SCC for a *Sericea Lespedeza* control program, the agency would work cooperatively with the Secretary of Agriculture, affected county governments and the affected conservation districts to devise a program to implement the provisions contained in SB 548.

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Attachment 2

House Agriculture Committee

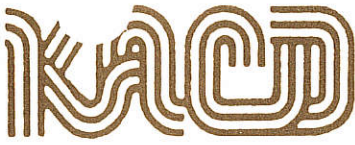
SB 548

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The agency has attempted to identify the fiscal impact on the agency to implement such a program. Initial program and policy development can be absorbed by the agency. Implementation costs at the state level and local administrative and technical assistance costs would be based upon the number of counties declared as a disaster and the amount of funding appropriated.

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony this morning and will respond to questions at the appropriate time.



THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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Fax (785) 827-7784

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senate Bill 548 - AN ACT concerning agriculture; relating to control and eradication of sericea lespedeza; powers of secretary of agriculture; expenditures by conservation districts.

**March 11, 2002
Topeka, Kansas**

Presented by:

**Richard G. Jones, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts**

Chairman Johnson, and members of the Committee, my name is Richard Jones and I am here representing the 105 Conservation Districts of Kansas. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 548.

The Conservation Districts, at their last two annual meetings, have passed resolutions concerning grazing lands problems with sericea lespedeza. One of the resolutions was directed at the eradication of sericea in USDA Conservation Reserve seeded acres and the other was in support of Kansas State University and their research efforts directed at controlling sericea lespedeza.

Conservation Districts are the natural resource experts at the local level. They set the natural resource priority needs within their local district. They adopt and direct the conservation programs that will meet their priorities. To be successful, conservation programs must be implemented by people at the local level. This is true for a program to control sericea lespedeza.

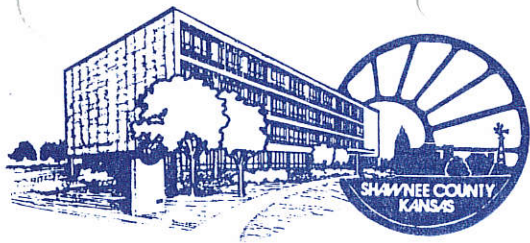
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Attachment 3



The Conservation Districts in southeast Kansas are especially interested in controlling and or eradicating sericea lespedeza in the native rangeland within their district. The spread of this noxious weed has a major economic impact on the livestock industry in this area. The districts have indicated an interest in implementing a program at the local level to address the problem.

We understand the problem, but we must also be realistic. Funding for current conservation programs is not adequate to meet existing needs. Conservation Districts have a waiting list of Kansas farmers and ranchers wanting financial and technical assistance for conservation treatment needed on their land. Funds for controlling sericea lespedeza should not come at the expense of current programs. We believe that a new source of funding should be made available for this problem.

We support Senate Bill 548 and recommend it's passage.



Shawnee County Noxious Weed Division

2044 S.W. WESTERN
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66604
PHONE: (785) 232-0120 FAX (785) 232-8802
JOHN KABUS, DIRECTOR

COUNTY WEED DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS

To: House Agriculture Committee
Representative Dan Johnson, Chairman

From: John Kabus, CWDAK Legislative Committee Chairman &
Shawnee County Noxious Weed Director

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 548 – allowing County Conservation Districts to cost-share for the control and eradication of *Sericea Lespedeza*

Date: March 11, 2002

Kansas County Noxious Weed Directors are the lieutenants in the battle trenches fighting the war on *Sericea Lespedeza*. Currently, counties and landowners are losing the fight. We need reinforcements, and Senate Bill 548 could supply needed help if federal resources become available. The County Weed Directors Association of Kansas supports the favorable passage of Senate Bill 548.

Noxious Weed Directors are charged with enforcing the Kansas Noxious Weed Law within their counties' borders. Enforcement activities, right-of-way noxious weed control, and cost-share control measures provided to landowners at local noxious weed departments are 100% funded with local property tax revenue. Local County Commission Boards direct the daily functions of their Noxious Weed Departments. If federal funds become a reality, passage of Senate Bill 548 can be viewed as local property tax relief in counties that do not currently cost-share noxious weed control measures.

The CWDAK would respectfully request that language be added to Senate Bill 548 that would first require the Department of Agriculture to communicate with Boards of County Commissioners prior to designating their county a disaster area. With the current language in SB 548, there is the possibility that county expenditures could increase dramatically if a county already cost-shares for *Sericea* control and the County Conservation Districts also cost-shares with federal resources.

In conclusion, management and good planning will kill *Sericea Lespedeza*; complacency allows it to thrive. Kansas Noxious Weed Directors are willing to cooperate with any agency committed to joining landowners and counties to fight the war against *Sericea Lespedeza*.

Thank you for time and consideration and I would be willing to answer any questions you may have.

House Agriculture Committee
March 11, 2002

Attachments: Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department's Attachment 4
2001 Summer Newsletter

SHAWNEE COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED NEWSLETTER



John Kabus, Director

Summer 2001

SERICEA LESPEDEZA

is a very aggressive, drought hardy perennial, first introduced as a forage crop in the Southeastern United States. As early as the 1930's, Sericea was also used for erosion control and wildlife habitats in Kansas. This noxious weed is primarily found in native rangeland, CRP, and roadsides in the eastern 1/3 of Kansas. Plants have a dark green foliage that contrasts the native grass color in the early fall. Lespedeza has small, white, purple tinged flowers that bloom in late summer and produce large amounts of seed. It also has a semi-woody stem and can reach five feet in height. Sericea's ability to compete with native bunch type grasses makes it a problem. Its aggressive behavior allows it to choke out existing vegetation. Sericea also contains tannin that renders it unpalatable to livestock for most of the grazing season. It can also tolerate and survive most common weed control practices used by farmers and ranchers. Sericea Lespedeza is often confused with its palatable cousin Korean Lespedeza. Other similar species are Heath Aster, Japanese Lespedeza, Slough Grass, and White Snakeroot.

CONTROL MEASURES - Sericea Lespedeza can be treated with a variety of cultural, mechanical, and chemical means. Preventing seed production and its spread is of primary importance for control. The Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department promotes a holistic farm management approach as the most effective control for sericea. This method involves using many different strategies to eradicate the problem. The Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department encourages farmers to develop a management plan to coordinate and facilitate these holistic practices. Examples would include the use of pasture burning, mowing, fertilization, selective grazing, and tillage in conjunction with approved herbicide use.

Mechanical / Cultural

- Sericea Lespedeza can not withstand normal tillage practices
- repeated mowing will reduce seed production and plant vigor
- burning can be a valuable tool in controlling Sericea Lespedeza
- avoid double stocking or fall pasturing livestock in infested areas
- fertilization in cool season grasses will discourage sericea from spreading

Mechanical and cultural practices should be used in conjunction with other control methods.

Remedy - 1 gallon containers

- pastures and CRP
- cool and warm season hay fields
- feedlots and waste areas
- spot applications
- only apply under good soil moisture conditions

Controls Sericea Lespedeza and other broadleaves, but does not kill grass.

Escort - 16 ounce containers

- pastures and CRP
- cool and warm season hay fields
- in areas where Musk Thistle is also a concern
- only apply under good soil moisture conditions
- must be applied by a commercial applicator

Controls Sericea Lespedeza and other broadleaves, but does not kill grass.



GENERAL NOTICE

The following general notice to control noxious weeds appeared in the official county newspaper March 28, and March 30, 2001.

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law K.S.A. 2-1314 et seq. requires all persons who own or supervise land in Kansas to control and eradicate all weeds declared noxious by legislative action. The weeds declared noxious are: FIELD BINDWEED, MUSK THISTLE, JOHNSON GRASS, SERICEA LESPEDEZA, BUR RAGWEED, CANADA THISTLE, LEAFY SPURGE, HOARY CRESS, QUACK GRASS, RUSSIAN KNAPWEED, KUDZU AND PIGNUT. Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to every person who owns or supervises land in Shawnee County that noxious weeds growing or found on such land shall be controlled and eradicated. Control is defined as preventing the production of viable seed and the vegetative spread of the plant.

Failure to observe this notice may result in Shawnee County:

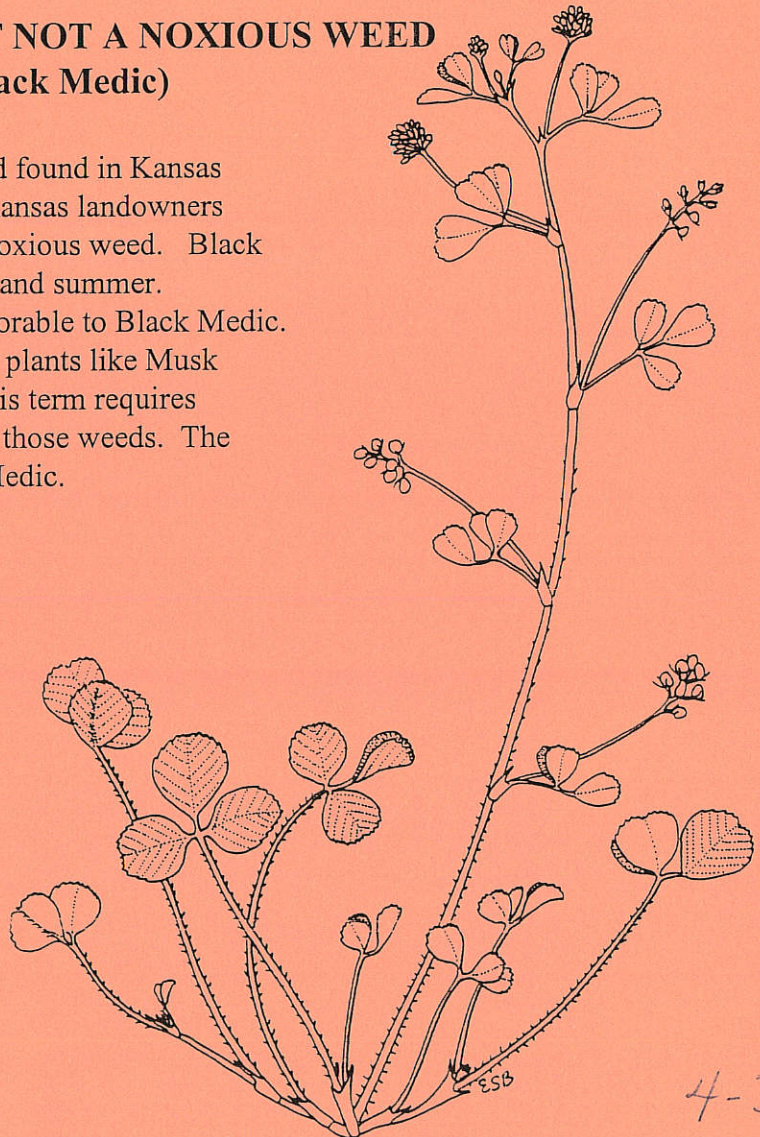
1. Serving a legal notice requiring control of the noxious weeds within a minimum of five days. Failure to control the noxious weeds within the time period allowed may result in the county treating the noxious weeds at the landowners expense and placing a lien on the property if the bill is not paid within 30 days or,
2. filing criminal charges for non-compliance. Conviction for non-compliance may result in a fine of \$100 per day of non-compliance with a maximum fine of \$1500.

The public is also hereby notified that it is a violation of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to barter, sell or give away infested nursery stock or livestock feed unless the feed is fed on the farm where grown or sold to a commercial processor that will destroy the viability of the noxious weed seed. Custom harvesting machines must be free of all weed seed and litter when entering the County and when leaving a field infested with noxious weeds. To be eligible for the cost-share certificate program, Commercial Pesticide Applicators are required to contact the Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department prior to applying control measures on noxious weed infested property. County noxious weed officials shall have at all reasonable times, free access to enter upon premises and to inspect property, both real and personal, regardless of location, in connection with the administration of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law. A copy of the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Report or additional information may be obtained from the Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department, 2044 SW Western, Topeka, Kansas, 66604, 785-232-0120.

OBNOXIOUS, BUT NOT A NOXIOUS WEED (Black Medic)

Black Medic is a common and troublesome weed found in Kansas lawns, pastures and hay meadows. Although Kansas landowners battle this invasive weed, it is not considered a noxious weed. Black Medic has been definitely obnoxious this spring and summer. Apparently, recent weather cycles have been favorable to Black Medic. The word "noxious" is a legislative term to label plants like Musk Thistle, Johnson Grass, Field Bindweed, etc. This term requires counties to offer cost shared herbicide to control those weeds. The county does not sell chemical to control Black Medic.

Actually, a healthy grass stand is the best defense against Black Medic. Fertilizing lawns and cool season pastures will reduce Black Medic infestations. For heavy infestations in lawns and other areas a herbicide treatment with Trimec* or a similar product will control Black Medic. Livestock and wildlife will consume Black Medic, and scattered plants in pastures and hay meadows should not be considered a problem. For more information on Black Medic or other weeds please call or bring plant samples (including roots) for identification to our office.

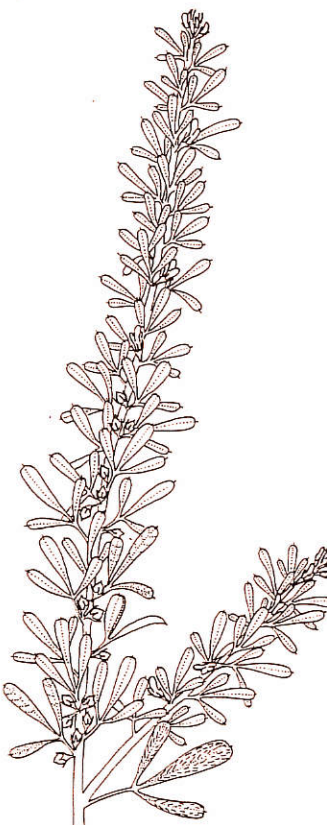


NEW SERICEA LESPEDEZA CONTROL NOTICE

The Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department is implementing a "Sericea Lespedeza Advisory Notice" program. This notice, that is pictured below will replace the official warning notices used in the past. It may be sent for any size of Sericea Lespedeza infestation. It is meant to be a **friendly** reminder of a Sericea infestation. If you receive one, please don't take offense to it. Our goal is to reduce the amount of noxious weeds in Shawnee County and to provide service to county landowners. Please call if you have questions or concerns.

SHAWNEE COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED DEPARTMENT

SERICEA LESPEDEZA ADVISORY



PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT SERICEA LESPEDEZA, A NOXIOUS WEED (ILLEGAL PLANT) IN KANSAS AND SHAWNEE COUNTY HAS BEEN REPORTED ON PROPERTY OWNED OR SUPERVISED BY:

LOCATED AT OR NEAR:

REPORTED DATE:

ADVISORY NOTICE DATE:

PLEASE CONTROL INFESTATION BY:

Extensions may be granted by contacting the Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department at (785) 232 0120.

Please be a good neighbor and help control this invasive plant pest by using an approved method listed below.

Mechanical / Cultural

- Sericea Lespedeza can not withstand normal tillage practices
- repeated mowing will reduce seed production and plant vigor
- burning can be a valuable tool in controlling Sericea Lespedeza
- avoid double stocking or fall pasturing livestock in infested areas
- fertilization in cool season grasses will discourage sericea from spreading

Mechanical and cultural practices should be used in conjunction with other control methods.

Remedy - 1 gallon containers

- pastures and CRP
- cool and warm season hay fields
- feedlots and waste areas
- spot applications
- only apply under good soil moisture conditions

Controls Sericea Lespedeza and other broadleaves, but does not kill grass.

Escort - 16 ounce containers

- pastures and CRP
- cool and warm season hay fields
- in areas where Musk Thistle is also a concern
- only apply under good soil moisture conditions
- must be applied by a commercial applicator

Controls Sericea Lespedeza and other broadleaves, but does not kill grass.

Assistance and cost-share herbicides are available at the Shawnee County Noxious Weed Warehouse, 2044 SW Western, Topeka Ks.

State law requires landowners to control this noxious weed. THANK YOU for your cooperation.

If the infestation has been controlled please disregard this notice. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department at (785) 232 0120.

HELPFUL INFORMATION IN CONTROLLING SERICEA LESPEDEZA

- Only apply herbicides when good soil moisture conditions exist.
- Use large amounts of carrier water when applying. > 15 gallons per acre
- Commercially application will save money in the long term.
- Spraying Sericea Lespedeza with 2,4-D is a waste of time and money.
- Avoid double stocking or fall pasturing infested areas and dry lot cattle coming from sericea infested areas.
- Burning activates sericea seed germination.
- Fertilization in cool season grasses will discourage infestation from spreading.
- Mowing will reduce sericea seed production. Haying is permitted if done before seed production.
- Do not allow infestations to spread to timber areas.

ASSISTANCE

The Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department has 200 gallon, pull-type sprayers available for landowners and operators to use. Each is equipped with a self-contained motor and pump, handgun, and boomjet nozzles. These sprayers can be rented for spraying noxious weeds within Shawnee County. The daily rental charge is \$10.00. Herbicide products for the control of noxious weeds are available to landowners and operators on a cost share basis. We also identify unknown weed samples and inspect hay and feed grains for noxious weed seed.



If you have any questions concerning herbicides, identification and control of noxious weeds, utilization of the services, or know of any noxious weeds growing uncontrolled on roads, railroads, cities, or adjoining land, please contact our office at 2044 SW Western, Topeka, Kansas, or phone (785) 232-0120.

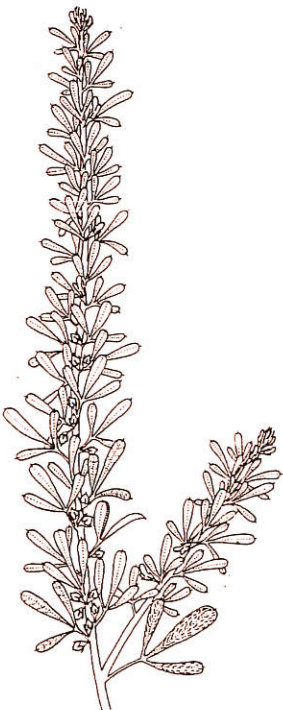
LOCATION

The Noxious Weed Warehouse is located at **2044 SW Western** on the Expocentre grounds, just north of the Fire Station. Cost shared herbicide and rental sprayers are for noxious weed control only, and can be purchased there during the following hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Shawnee County
Noxious Weed Department
2044 SW Western
Topeka, KS 66604-3095

PRSRT STD
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SHAWNEE COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED FACT SHEET



John Kabus, Director

(785) 232 0120

SERICA LESPEDEZA MANAGEMENT PLAN

CONTROL MEASURES

- *LARGE INFESTATIONS – Native range grass*

YEAR 1

1. Burn the pasture at the latest possible date. Approximately April 15th
2. Use a full season stocking rate grazing program. May 1st to November 1st.
3. Have the pasture commercial sprayed with Escort* approximately August 10th or later as long as there is good soil moisture.

YEAR 2

1. Burn the pasture at the latest possible date. Approximately April 15th
2. Use a full season stocking rate grazing program. May 1st to November 1st.
3. Have the pasture commercial sprayed with Escort* approximately August 10th or later as long as there is good soil moisture.

YEAR 3 & BEYOND

1. Do **not** burn the 3rd year. In following years burn the pasture at the latest possible date. Approximately April 15th
2. Use a full season stocking rate grazing program, although; remove cattle by September 15th, if possible.
3. Spot treat sericea areas in the pasture with Remedy* before flowering, approximately June 15th or later as long as there is good soil moisture.

- *SMALL INFESTATIONS – all grassy areas*

1. Avoid burning every year.
2. Spot treat sericea areas in the pasture with Remedy* before flowering, approximately June 15th or later as long as there is good soil moisture.
3. Limiting cattle grazing after September 15th will reduce spreading of the infestation to other areas in the pasture.

* Escort herbicide by Dupont, * Remedy herbicide by Dow Agrisciences

COSTS

Escort - \$ 5.13 per acre with the county's cost share program - use rate ½ ounce per acre and must be commercially applied.

Remedy - \$ 6.25 per acre or \$ 50.00 per gallon with the county's cost share program – use rate 1 pint per acre.

Commercial application – approximately \$ 5.00 per acre

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Apply herbicides only when good soil moisture exists.
- Use large amounts of carrier water when applying. > or = 5 gal. Aerial, > or = 15 gal. Ground
- Commercially application will save money in the long term.
- Spraying Sericea Lespedeza with 2,4-D is a waste of time and money.
- Avoid double stocking or fall pasturing infested areas and dry lot cattle coming from sericea infested areas.
- Burning activates sericea seed germination.
- Fertilization in cool season grasses will discourage infestation from spreading.
- Mowing will reduce sericea seed production. Haying is permitted if done before seed production.
- Do not allow infestations to spread to timber areas.

SERICEA LESPEDEZA

SERICEA LESPEDEZA is a very aggressive, drought hardy perennial, introduced as a forage crop in the Southeastern United States. As early as the 1930's, Sericea was also used for erosion control and wildlife habitats in Kansas. It is now found primarily in native rangeland, CRP, and roadsides in the eastern 1/3 of Kansas. Plants have a dark green foliage that contrasts the native grass color in the early fall. Lespedeza has small, white, purple tinged flowers that bloom in late summer and produce large amounts of seed. It also has a semi-woody stem and can reach five feet in height.

Sericea is a problem because its ability to compete with native bunch type grasses. Its aggressive behavior allows it to choke out existing vegetation. Sericea also contains a tannin that makes it unpalatable to livestock for most of the grazing season. It can also tolerate and survive most common weed control practices used by farmers and ranchers.

Shawnee County has approximately 45 isolated infestations of Sericea Lespedeza. They predominantly occur in the western half of the county. Although, every township within the county has at least one infestation. Most of the infestations are small, with only 3 to 4 locations experiencing noticeable economic losses.

Sericea Lespedeza is spread and proliferates mainly by using rangeland for double stocking cattle or winter pasture, late native hay harvesting, or wildlife habitat. Some CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) areas were planted with sericea contaminated seed.

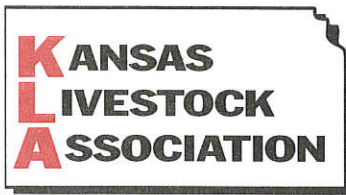
During the 1998 Kansas Legislative session, lawmakers amended the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to include Sericea Lespedeza as a noxious weed. The statute was written to allow time for further research and sericea did not officially become a "noxious weed" until July 1, 2000. Counties had the option to make it a noxious weed within their borders early by resolution and publication. This allowed for enforcement and cost-share chemical availability, but did not address the movement of sericea seed in grass forage seed.

Sericea Lespedeza is often confused with its palatable cousin Korean Lespedeza. Other similar species are Heath Aster, Japanese Lespedeza, Slough Grass, and White Snakeroot.

CONTROL MEASURES - Sericea Lespedeza can be treated with a variety of cultural, mechanical, and chemical means. Preventing seed production and its spread is of primary importance for control. The Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department is promoting a holistic farm management approach as the most effective control for sericea. This method involves using many different strategies to eradicate the problem. The Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department encourages farmers to develop a management plan to coordinate and facilitate these holistic practices. Examples would include the use of pasture burning, mowing, fertilization, selective grazing, and tillage in conjunction with approved herbicide use.

CURRENT STRATEGIES - Since 1994, the Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department has developed awareness of the potential dangers of Sericea Lespedeza to native rangeland in Shawnee County. The first test plots in Shawnee County were sprayed in 1994, and crop tours, newsletters, and news releases since then have reached most of the farmers and ranchers within the county. Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department has been working closely with the Shawnee County Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and other local farm service organizations to help promote the education of Sericea Lespedeza control.

Shawnee County Noxious Weed Department controls Sericea Lespedeza on county right-of-way and contract R-O-W. Prior to July 1, 2000 the department spot treated small infestations on private property at the owners request. This program has reduced many of these infestations to manageable levels. Currently, Shawnee County Landowners can purchase cost-shared herbicide products from the county to control their infestations. With the correct timing, these herbicides will control Musk Thistle and Sericea Lespedeza.



Since 1894

To: House Agriculture Committee
Representative Dan Johnson, Chairman

From: Mike Beam, KLA Governmental Affairs Staff

Subject: Support for **SB 548 & Sub. for SB 556**

Date: March 11, 2002

The Kansas Livestock Association supports the thrust and intentions of SB 548 & Substitute for SB 556 and we appreciate this committee's attention to one of the most serious economic and environmental issues facing Kansans. We continually hear from ranchers and landowners about the aggressive spread of sericea lespedeza. In many situations, ranchers will tell you sericea lespedeza is the most serious challenge they face as a cattle producer and resource manager.

For the most part, this noxious weed has been a problem for grazing lands in the eastern one third of the state. In recent years, however, county weed departments have identified this dreaded plant in over 70 counties. The attached graph prepared by the Kansas Department of Agriculture shows the aggressive nature of sericea lespedeza. It has become a statewide problem, and an important issue that deserves the full attention of the Kansas Legislature.

This invasive species is difficult and expensive to control. Oftentimes, the cost of treating this noxious weed is almost equal to the annual gross income a landowner can expect when leasing their native pasture for livestock grazing. We continue to encourage researchers to search for more economical and effective control methods. In the meantime, landowners from all across Kansas need to be keenly aware of the sericea lespedeza threat and work to contain the spread of this noxious weed.

SB 548 - State Efforts to Control and Eradicate Sericea Lespedeza.

This bill (SB 548) appears useful as it allows the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture to identify areas of the state that have the highest sericea lespedeza infestations. In addition, SB 548 gives local conservation districts authority to roll out assistance to private and public landowners/managers for controlling this

House Agriculture Committee
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noxious weed. We realize this bill does not appropriate money for this purpose and most conservation districts are unable find significant resources to add to their list of conservation requests. It is important, however, to put a program in place in preparation of any future state or federal dollars appropriated for this purpose.

Currently, there are several bills pending in Congress to provide block grants to states to use for invasive species control programs. One proposal is HR 3260, introduced by Representative Jerry Moran (R-KS), which could provide the needed shot in the arm to help Kansas' landowners with this challenge. In fact, one of the provisions of Representative Moran's bill is a requirement that states must demonstrate the ability to carry out the plan. (See attached bill.)

Another bill, HR 1462, was introduced by Representative Joel Hefley (D-CO) in 2001 and was approved by a subcommittee last week. This proposal, titled the "Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act of 2001", directs the Secretary of Interior to establish a program and provide up to \$100 million for financial assistance to States for eradication and control of nonnative weeds on public and private land.

SB 548 does provide a state-local program that could quickly and efficiently administer federal monies if available through the passage of federal legislation in the near future.

Sub. for SB 556 - Establishing a Research Station at Toronto State Park

KLA has long supported proposals to enhance research and educational efforts for economical, practical, and effective methods to control sericea lespedeza. An educational effort is needed to provide the latest knowledge about this plant and inform more landowners about sericea lespedeza's negative impact on grazing lands. Research is equally important, as we must find additional tools to control sericea lespedeza infestations.

This bill proposes to develop a research and experiment station at Toronto State Park with the focus on sericea lespedeza control. Furthermore, the bill requests that the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks cooperate with the Secretary of Agriculture on this project. This "let's cooperate" language is healthy and important. I believe there is little the State of Kansas cannot accomplish if the various state and federal agencies, research institutions, and private sector organizations will pull together on this challenge.

This cooperation is happening, but perhaps a targeted facility in the heart of sericea country can enhance this effort. We support Sub. for SB 556 and SB 548 and we appreciate the House Agriculture Committee's attention to this issue.

Thank you.

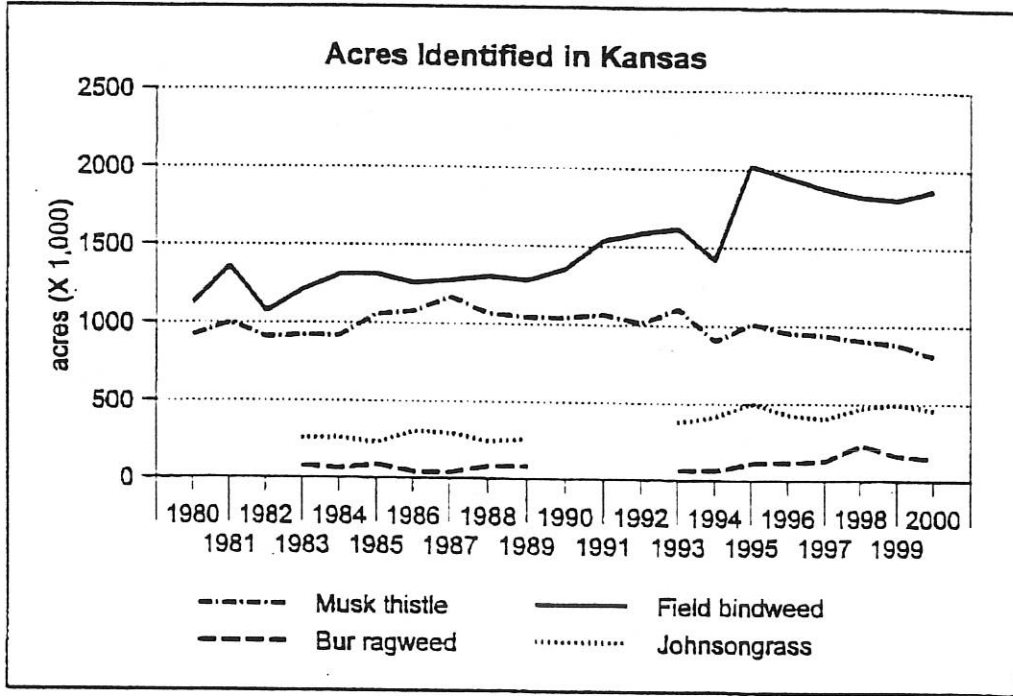


Figure 1. The acres reported for the selected noxious weeds in Kansas. (Data from Kansas Department of Agriculture)

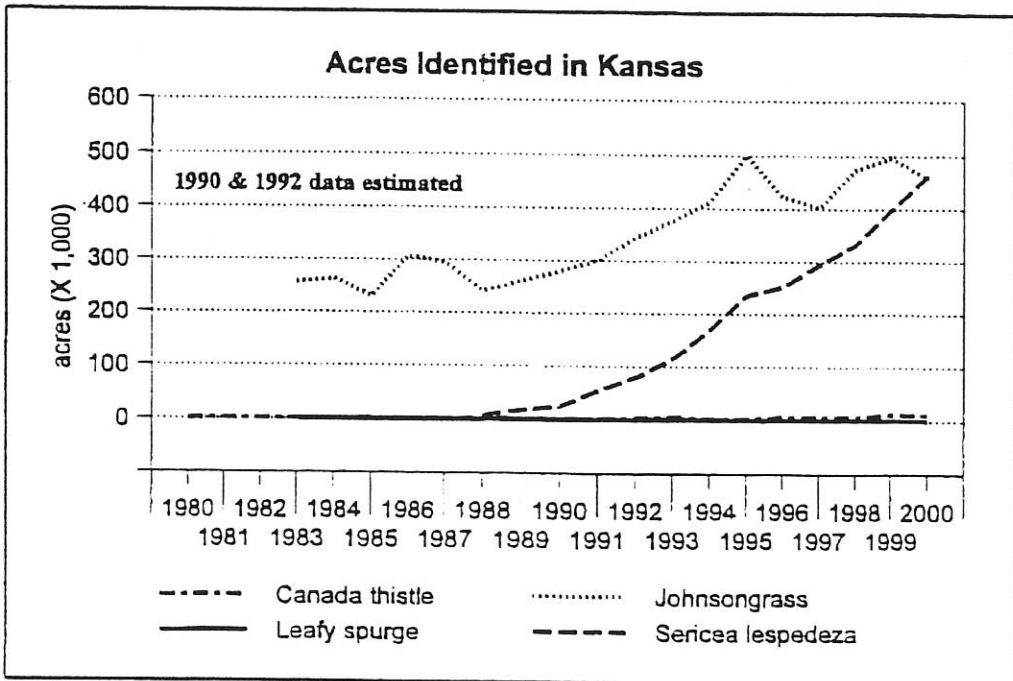


Figure 2. The acres reported for noxious weeds rapidly increasing as compared to Johnsongrass in Kansas. (Data from Kansas Department of Agriculture)

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Noxious Weed Control Act of 2001 (Introduced in the House)

HR 3260 IH

107th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 3260

To amend the Plant Protection Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a cost-share program with the States for the control of noxious weeds.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 8, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Kansas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Plant Protection Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a cost-share program with the States for the control of noxious weeds.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Noxious Weed Control Act of 2001'.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COST-SHARE PROGRAM FOR NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL.

The Plant Protection Act is amended by inserting after section 418 (7 U.S.C. 7718) the following

new section:

SEC. 719. COST-SHARE PROGRAM FOR NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED- The Secretary may carry out a grant program to provide financial assistance to States to support State efforts to control noxious weeds.

(b) NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PLAN-

(1) PLAN REQUIRED- To be eligible for a grant under the program, a State shall submit to the Secretary a plan describing the purposes for which the grant funds would be used, the types and extent of the noxious weeds to be subject to control, and the control methods proposed to be used. The noxious weed control plan shall be submitted at such time, and contain such other information, as the Secretary may require.

(2) PREPARATION; CONSULTATION- To be accepted by the Secretary, a State shall prepare its noxious weed control plan using the department of agriculture of the State. The plan shall be prepared in consultation with the Secretary and agricultural producers in the State whose lands are threatened by noxious weeds.

(c) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS- The Secretary shall select grant recipients on the basis of the following:

(1) The noxious weed control plan submitted under subsection (b).

(2) The threat posed by noxious weeds in the State.

(3) The demonstrated ability of the State to carry out the plan.

(4) The extent to which the economy of the State is dependent on agriculture and natural resources.

(d) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT- As a condition on the receipt of a grant under the program, the State shall agree to provide non-Federal funds or in-kind support to match the amount of the grant funds. In-kind support may be provided by a State only with the consent of the Secretary.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2011.

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Kansas Farm Bureau

2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan, Kansas 66503-8508 • 785.587.6000 • Fax 785.587.6914 • www.kfb.org
800 S.W. Jackson, Suite 817, Topeka, Kansas 66612 • 785.234.4535 • Fax 785.234.0278

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

RE: SB 548 – allowing for the designation of sericea lespedeza disaster areas and providing for grants from conservation funds for sericea controls.

Sub. SB 556 – allowing for the designation of a sericea lespedeza research area.

**March 11, 2002
Topeka, Kansas**

**Prepared by:
Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director
Public Policy Division**

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 548 allowing for the designation of sericea lespedeza disaster areas and providing for grants for sericea controls and Sub. SB 556 allowing for the designation of a sericea lespedeza research area.

Control and eradication of noxious weeds is a concern of farmers and ranchers across the state. The past few years have seen a significant increase in the number of acres of land, particularly pasture and rangeland, infested with sericea lespedeza.

Our members strongly encourage all landowners, public and private, to control noxious weeds on their land. Year after year, Farm Bureau members raise concerns with absentee landowners and public landholders failing to adequately control noxious weed growth.

House Agriculture Committee
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The following statements are included in our 2002 KFB Resolutions and are part of our noxious weed policy:

- *We support the current shared responsibility for compliance and implementation of the noxious weed law between landowners, counties and the state.*
- *The state should provide technical assistance and provide increased oversight authority.*
- *All private landowners, including absentee landowners, governmental entities, railroads, rail trail sponsors and utilities holding or managing land should control and work toward eradicating noxious weeds.*
- *Control procedures and cost-share should include the use of herbicides, cultural practices and biological methods.*
- *We seek increased technical assistance to improve rangeland management.*
- *To assist landowners in controlling all noxious weeds, including sericea lespedeza, we support additional state, federal, and industry funding that is required to increase research needed to develop more effective products, procedures and practices.*
- *We encourage the partnering of governments, on all levels, private landowners, agricultural chemical companies and others to implement effective control programs.*

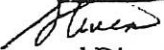
SB 548 and Sub. SB 556 are compatible with these policy positions and represent a commitment by the state to help access funding, allow for the granting of funds and further research into much need control procedures for addressing sericea lespedeza infestations. As such, we respectfully request the Committee act favorably on these measures. Thank you.

Kansas Farm Bureau represents grassroots agriculture. Established in 1919, this non-profit advocacy organization supports farm families who earn their living in a changing industry.



March 11, 2002

TO: Sue Peterson
Assistant to the President for Governmental Relations

FR: Steven Graham 
Assistant to the Dean and Director

Dean of Agriculture
Director of Agricultural
Experiment Station and
Cooperative Extension Service
113 Waters Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-4008
785-532-6147
Fax: 785-532-6563
<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu>

RE: Testimony on Substitute for SB 556 before the House Agriculture Committee on 3/11/02

Chairman Johnson, members of the House Agriculture Committee, ladies and gentlemen, I am Steven Graham, Assistant to Dr. Marc Johnson, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension. I would like to submit testimony in favor of Substitute for Senate Bill 556.

I apologize for not coming in person, but am asking Sue Peterson to deliver our testimony or forward it to the committee. Thank you for your understanding. I also am attaching another copy of the recent research update by Dr. Walt Fick to the House Agriculture Committee on February 25, 2002. That update was entitled "Sericea Lespedeza Management and Control Project."

Substitute for SB556

New Section 1. (a) calls for the coordination, enhancement, and continuation of federal, state, and local efforts as well as public and private efforts to develop an effective and affordable method of controlling or eradicating sericea lespedeza and to encourage communication of information about sericea control methods to landowners and land managers.

New Section 1. (c) calls for research and demonstration efforts, and development of field days and workshops to demonstrate methods of control or eradication of sericea lespedeza.

New Section 1. (d) asks the secretary of agriculture and the secretary of wildlife and parks to request assistance from any public or private university or other research institution, among other entities.

At K-State Research and Extension, we are always willing to collaborate with the secretary of agriculture and with the secretary of wildlife and parks to conduct research, demonstrate new methods of control, and conduct field days and workshops to share new information with fellow agencies, as well as with landowners, and the citizens of Kansas.

We have been conducting research with other agencies, universities, and with private landowners in Kansas for quite a few years on this issue of sericea lespedeza and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future, as this bill directs. If there is a way to enhance our funding for conducting this research, we would most certainly welcome that assistance. I have provided a history of our work on sericea lespedeza (see next page) and attached a page detailing many past activities.

House Agriculture Committee
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"Knowledge
for Life"

House Agriculture Committee - Substitute for SB556

March 11, 2002

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HISTORY

As most of you know, K-State Research and Extension has been researching the control of sericea lespedeza in various ways ever since the Kansas Legislature declared sericea lespedeza as a county-option noxious weed in 1988. Work throughout the 1990s, while very rudimentary in nature and with very little official funding, investigated the use of burning, mowing, and herbicides used alone or in combination for the control of sericea lespedeza. Landowners indicated sheep and goats would apparently consume sericea lespedeza more readily than cattle.

Observations and reports from landowners in the 1990s indicated that a herbicide treatment might need to be repeated after 2-3 years to maintain acceptable control of sericea lespedeza. Most of the reinfestation appeared to come from seed but some of the initially treated plants survived.

By 1997, K-State Research and Extension personnel realized that a more coordinated and enhanced research effort was needed to understand the biology of sericea lespedeza in order to develop sound management strategies to enhance the control of this species. We were concerned with the spread of sericea lespedeza to more locations throughout the state.

Also, in 1997, members of the Kansas Livestock Association were calling for more effort to control sericea lespedeza. Members of the Kansas Legislature and the Kansas Department of Agriculture realized they were hearing more and more about sericea lespedeza taking over pastures in more regions of the state. Thus, K-State Research and Extension was asked to submit a two-year proposal for enhanced funding to the Senate Agriculture Committee in early 1998. The Legislature added funding from the State General Fund to K-State Research and Extension's FY99 budget to allow the establishment of an enhanced research project to study the biology and control of sericea lespedeza.

By 1999, members of the Kansas Livestock Association and certain Kansas legislators felt the need to ask for more funding, since the spread of sericea lespedeza was even more apparent. Thus, the Kansas Legislature approved a three-year funding plan for enhanced sericea lespedeza research. The work was to be funded through the budget of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The research and educational activities funded would be conducted by K-State Research and Extension and Emporia State University.

KSU and Emporia State University have received funding under this plan in FY2000 and FY2001. The third year of funding for FY2002 did not materialize. We have continued our research and extension work in FY2002, using some carryover dollars from the first two years' funding. However, with no new funding for FY2002 or beyond, future work plans are in jeopardy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of Substitute for SB556. If you have further questions, please contact me at 785-532-5729.

cc: Marc Johnson, David Mengel, Walt Fick, Paul Ohlenbusch
Attachment

Examples of
K-State Research and Extension
Research, Demonstration Plots, and Educational Outreach Efforts

Research Plots:

- Blaine, KS — Grazing site. Role of fire and how it affects seedling development
- Maple Hill, KS — Integrated control - mowing and herbicides
- North of Manhattan — Herbicide screening site
- Greenwood County — Pasture research - comparing grazing by goats and cattle

Other Plots and Work:

- Plots at Fall River Lake — KSU & Army Corps of Engineers
- Lespedeza Webworm plots — private landowner, Emporia State University, KSU
- SL & Goats & Cattle — landowner, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, KSU
- Aerial plot of Vista — FR Lake land, Wildlife & Parks, KSU
- Herbicide effects on native forbs — private consultant, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife & Parks, and KSU
- Small demonstration plots — NRCS, Greenwood County Weed Supervisor, KSU
- Time of Burn plots — NRCS, Greenwood County Weed Supervisor, KSU
- Disease Plot — Landowner, KSU

Meetings, Tours, Etc.

- Sericea Symposium at Eureka — KSU, ESU, Wildlife & Parks, private consultant, herbicide representatives
- Greenwood County Tour — ESU, landowner, County Weed Supervisor, KS Department of Wildlife & Parks, NRCS, KSU
- Spot Spray Field Days — The Nature Conservancy (TNC), NRCS, Greenwood County Weed Supervisor, ESU, Wildlife & Parks, US Fish & Wildlife Service, SE KS Weed Management Area, KSU
- Spot Spray Cost Share Program — Organized through the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, and funded by Fish & Wildlife Foundation. (This is just getting started.) The Tallgrass Legacy has a membership of ranchers, Quail Unlimited, Wildlife and Parks, NRCS, ESU, KU, TNC, RC&D's, US Fish & Wildlife Service and KSU. Also, staff of KLA and KS Farm Bureau usually attend.
- Meeting and Tour for the "Multi-State Sericea Lespedeza Work Group" (KS, OK, MO, NE)
- involved were Greenwood County Noxious Weed Director, NRCS, ESU, Wildlife & Parks, ranchers, Greenwood County Commission, KSU.

Publications:

- Sericea Lespedeza History: History, Characteristics, and Identification
- Spot Spraying Sericea Lespedeza: A Cost Effective Control

Other:

- 1 goat management school 2 yrs ago with 250 in attendance
- Another planned for March 7, 2002 in Yates Center, KS.

**Testimony before the House Agriculture Committee
February 25, 2002
Sericea Lespedeza Management and Control Project
Kansas State University**

Sericea lespedeza has been in Kansas since the 1930s but was not recognized as a problem until the mid 1980s. It was declared a county option noxious weed in 1988 and a statewide noxious weed July 1, 2000. The Kansas Department of Agriculture estimated that 463,000 acres were infested with sericea lespedeza in 2000. Research on sericea lespedeza control began in the mid 1980s with small grant funding. State funding began on July 1, 1998 and funding through the Kansas Department of Agriculture began in FY 2000.

Efforts through K-State Research and Extension have focused on a rancher survey, applied and basic research, and an education component. *in over 70 counties → KS*

Rancher Survey

A questionnaire was developed and given to 45 land managers representing 23 counties in eastern Kansas during 2000. The survey consisted of an interview with questions on the types of grazing management, pasture history and characteristics, and vegetation management. Those surveyed have sericea lespedeza on native rangeland, tall fescue, smooth brome, and CRP acres. Some important responses: 86% of infested areas were previously farmed; 33% said sericea lespedeza present for ≥ 20 years but 46% discovered sericea lespedeza in the last 10 years; 85% were applying herbicides by ground rigs; 44% rated control with herbicides as good 1 year after treatment but only 16% rated control as good 2 years after treatment.

Research Program

Basic Research

Three locations with moderate to high densities of sericea lespedeza were sampled to determine the size of the seed bank in the soil, the level of seed dormancy, and germination percentage. Sericea lespedeza is a hard-seeded legume. Un-scarified germination ranged from 2 to 16%. Mechanical scarification increased germination to $\geq 70\%$. The amount of sericea lespedeza in the seed bank ranged from 15 to 47 million seeds per acre.

The absorption and translocation of ^{14}C -labeled herbicides has been studied in two seedling stages of sericea lespedeza. Absorption of Remedy (triclopyr) tends to be greater and faster than absorption of Ally/Escort (metsulfuron) and Tordon 22K (picloram). However, translocation within the plant is greater with Ally/Escort and Tordon 22K than with Remedy. These results suggest that spray coverage is critical when using Remedy for sericea lespedeza control. Greater translocation of Tordon 22K in seedlings 4 to 6 inches tall suggests that this herbicide may provide some control.

Applied Research

Sericea lespedeza is susceptible to Remedy applied at 1 to 1.5 pints/acre during the

vegetative or early bloom stages. Ally/Escort applied at ≥ 0.4 oz/acre during full bloom also provides control. A single mowing or late-spring burn generally increases stem density of sericea lespedeza. Application of Remedy at 0.5 pints/acre or Ally/Escort at 0.2 oz/acre 4-6 weeks after burning or mowing provides control of sericea lespedeza equivalent to higher rates of the herbicides used alone. Application of these herbicides needs to be repeated 2-4 years after initial treatment as sericea lespedeza stands recover, primarily from a seed bank in the soil. Dry weather as experienced in 1999 and 2000 greatly reduces the effectiveness of herbicides applied for sericea lespedeza control.

Greenhouse studies have shown that Tordon 22K and Remedy cause greater damage than Ally/Escort on two stages of sericea lespedeza seedlings. Tordon 22K applied at 0.125 lb/acre on seedlings < 6 inches tall may provide more economical control than currently labeled herbicides. Ongoing or planned studies:

- late-spring burning effects on seedling germination and establishment
- influence of spray volume on sericea control
- effect of late fall herbicide application on seed viability
- absorption and translocation of herbicides applied during the flowering stage
- herbicide screening for seedling control
- ecological impact of sericea on associated species composition and forage production
- effect of combination grazing of goats and cattle on use of sericea and sericea seed production

Education Program

A concentrated effort continues in southeast Kansas headed by Gary Kilgore, Southeast Area Extension Crops and Soils Specialist, and Jeff Davidson, County Extension Agent, Agriculture, in Greenwood county. Demonstrations, tours, and meetings are conducted to draw attention to the problem and to help producers identify sericea lespedeza and to understand the impacts on grazing lands.

Sericea lespedeza is not just a problem in eastern Kansas. Over 70 counties in Kansas now report this noxious weed. Statewide, education efforts are part of ongoing and special Extension programs, headed by Paul Ohlenbusch, State Specialist in Range and Pasture Management. Counties are being encouraged to develop a program to define the problem and develop an education program to fit their situation. Multi-county programs are encouraged whenever possible.

In 2000, two symposia, *Sericea Lespedeza and the Future of Invasive Species: A Symposium With a Look to the Future*, were held. A proceedings was developed and distributed through Extension and other outlets. Other publications released in 2001 included *Sericea Lespedeza: History, Characteristics, and Identification* and *Sericea Lespedeza & Herbicides: Cost effective controls*.

Cooperative Efforts

Kansas State University, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, other

state and federal agencies, and producer and environmental groups, organized the Multi-State Sericea Lespedeza Work Group in July, 2000. The Work Group includes similar groups in Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma to coordinate research and educational efforts. The Work Group continues to seek funding for a Director to coordinate the research and extension efforts and assist each state in developing an integrated management and control program.

The publication, *Sericea Lespedeza: History, Characteristics, and Identification* is also being used in Missouri and Nebraska. Two posters were developed for use in the region: Multi-state sericea lespedeza work group: a team approach, and Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*): A Noxious Weed.

Significant Publications/Presentations (1998-2002):

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SUB. FOR SENATE BILL NO. 556

**Testimony Provided to
House Committee on Agriculture
March 11, 2002**

Substitute for Senate Bill No. 556 would establish a research and experiment station at Toronto State Park to study the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza. As we understand it, this legislation aims to further ongoing cooperative efforts by various state and federal agencies to control sericea lespedeza by identifying a single location to serve as a source for information. To this end, the department supports SB 556 as a positive step to help address this growing problem.

The department continues to work to control sericea lespedeza and other noxious weeds that can occur on department property. For example, in FY2001 our agency expended over \$138,000 on chemical noxious weed control efforts alone, not including other control methods including mowing or burning. These invaders have a detrimental impact on our management of wildlife habitat for the benefit of the public, in addition to being a potential economic threat to neighboring agricultural producers. In particular, sericea lespedeza has become a growing concern in parts of southeast Kansas, including properties such as Toronto State Park and Toronto Wildlife Area. Consequently, we have developed a number of strategies in our attempts to control this threat, including chemical applications, a variety of burning techniques, and experimental use of goats as grazers around Melvern Lake (a cooperative project with Emporia State University).

By establishing official experiment plots at Toronto, our department could directly compare many of these control techniques, for example by burning or mowing at specific times of year, or by using different chemicals in adjacent plots. Ultimately, we would hope not only to better control sericea lespedeza where it occurs on department property, but also to provide new information to private landowners about cost-efficient and effective means of controlling the weed. Obviously, to accomplish this we would need to continue to work cooperatively with the Department of Agriculture, KSU Extension services, and other agencies that are also studying sericea lespedeza. With this understanding, we support SB 556.

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House Agriculture Committee
March 11, 2002
Attachment 8