

Integrated Control

In a Kansas State University Study, "native grass production was reduced by as much as 80% in sericea infested areas vs. non-infested areas."

Sericea lespedeza is proving to be a formidable adversary, and TLA has learned that a more integrated approach must be employed in order to gain control over its spread. Landowners are encouraged to use multiple control methods in order to achieve greater control over sericea on their land.

Controlling sericea lespedeza increases forage production; maintains ranch profitability; enhances water quality and quantity, as well as air quality; protects habitat for grassland birds; and also provides benefits for landowners adjacent to the treated acres. Integrated control not only involves multiple control methods, but also the involvement of multiple landowners in order to preserve the Flint Hills ecosystems and culture.



www.tallgrasslegacy.org

According to a resource assessment conducted by The Nature Conservancy and the Kansas Biological survey, of all the resource issues and environmental needs facing Kansas, one stands boldly forward—the TALLGRASS PRAIRIE. Only 4% of North America's presettlement Tallgrass prairie survives today, and 80% is located in Kansas!



Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

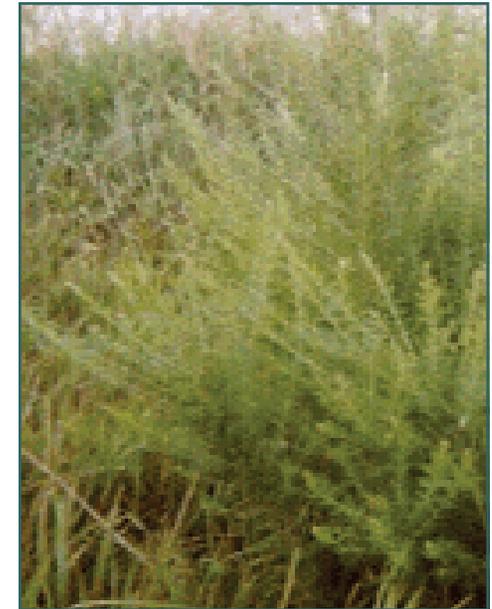
Myra N. Richardson
Grazing Lands Coordinator
4504 Freeman Rd
Manhattan, KS 66503

Phone: 785-477-1229
Fax: 785-537-7055
E-mail: myra.richardson1@cox.net

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

SERICEA LESPEDA CONTROL PROGRAM

5 County Pilot Group



Butler, Chase, Greenwood, Lyon, & Morris County

What is the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance?

The Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, or TLA, is a partnership effort among local ranchers, agricultural and conservation organizations, and representatives from state and federal agencies.

The TLA is one vehicle with which ideas and funding sources can get directly on the ground; taking concepts and dreams and turning them into habitat improvements. TLA's philosophy is: "If we are to save the Kansas Tallgrass prairie, the first step will be to keep the ranchers on the landscape; everything else becomes secondary."

The TLA's Sericea Lespedeza Control Program is another step toward saving the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie. This program, funded first by a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and now through a grant from the Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service, provides landowners with cost-share dollars to assist in the fight against this highly invasive species.

What is Sericea Lespedeza?

Sericea lespedeza, or sericea, is a perennial legume native to Asia. It was originally introduced to the U.S. in 1896 for use as livestock forage and as an erosion control plant. While still used as forage in the southeastern states, in the Flint Hills it has become an extremely aggressive weed.

COST-SHARE OPTIONS

Spot Application of Herbicides—Application of herbicides targeted to individual sericea plants or small areas of infestation. Spraying may be conducted by the landowner or a contractor according to TLA specifications.

PEG Supplementation—Polyethylene glycol is a chemical which binds with the condensed tannins present in sericea. Preliminary research has shown that providing PEG as a supplement allows cattle to consume greater levels of sericea, whereas without PEG, cattle tend to avoid grazing it. Increased grazing pressure on sericea helps to weaken the plant and adds another "strike" against sericea's survival.

Non-Traditional Burning Dates—While late spring range burning is the traditional fire season in the Flint Hills, spring burns typically enhance the spread of sericea. Late growing season burns show promise as a strategy to help control sericea. Early September burns have been shown to reduce sericea stem counts by 75 percent and also reduce seedling density.

Patch Burn Management—This is a rotational burning/grazing plan which creates a shifting mosaic of grassland that provides habitats for broader ranges of grassland species, including the Greater Prairie Chicken. It also provides the needed fuel loads to conduct hot burns to help control sericea and other invasives.

Burn/Non-Burn Rotation—Incorporation of burning and non-burning of prairie into other sericea control efforts as a part of a holistic integrated approach.

Sericea Control Program Response Form

Please Indicate which cost-shared sericea control measures you are interested in, and provide your contact information. Please also feel free to contact us if you have questions.

- Spot Application of Herbicides—50% cost-share
- PEG Supplementation—25% cost-share
- Non-Traditional Burn Dates—25% cost-share
- Patch-Burn Management—50% cost-share
- Burn/Non-Burn Rotation—25% cost-share

Questions/Comments:

Name

Address

Phone

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

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