

Legend Lespedeza

Key Features

Lespedeza is a warm season, drought tolerant, non-bloating legume that is well suited to our customers in Southern Iowa and Missouri. It is best used for pasture, hay, soil conservation and wildlife habitat. Lespedeza grows better on acidic, low fertility soils than most other legumes and is most active in July and August, when many other forages are semi-dormant.

Legend lespedeza is likely to be used most effectively as a companion legume providing high quality (protein, energy, and minerals) feed in cool-season grass pastures during summer months when it's needed most. The effects of endophyte toxicity in fescue pastures can be significantly reduced by adding Legend to your forage mix.

Legend is unique because its increased tolerance to infertile or acid soils. It is an annual that is good at reseeding. It is very drought tolerant, and is one of the few legumes that do not cause bloat. In order for a lespedeza stand to persist, it must be allowed to reseed.

Legend is the newest selection of common or striate lespedeza. It has longer, narrower leaves than other annual types, and in some tests has grown 6-8 inches taller than the popular Marion variety. In addition to being taller, Legend also appears to have a much greater leaf to stem ratio with its leaves much closer to the ground. Dry matter yield estimates taken in single-cutting side-by-side comparisons have shown the new 'Legend' lespedeza has a definite yield advantage over all other types and varieties. In some cases, the advantage has been 2 to 1.

Applications

Pasture & Hay

Planting Time

Spring

Management Keys

Legend lespedeza is an acid tolerant, drought resistant legume that has the ability to grow on very thin, low pH soils. It does respond to fertilization, particularly phosphorus, but shouldn't be heavily fertilized with nitrogen in grass pastures.

In order to ensure re-seeding, Legend should not be closely grazed in the fall until it has been allowed to re-seed (September – October). Legend appears to be superior to other varieties in its re-seeding ability.



Characteristics

N Fixation	5
Forage Quality	5
Recovery	5
Traffic Tolerance	4

Scale 1-5 (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent)

Seeding Rate

New Seeding = 14-16 lbs/acre
with a grass blend
Interseeding = 10-12 lbs/acre
Frost Seeding = 16-18 lbs/acre

Seeding Depth

Plant no deeper than 1/2"

