

THE BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF *SERICEA LESPEDEZA*. Bill Scott, Kansas State Weed Specialist.

*Sericea lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata*) was introduced into the United States in 1896 as a potential forage crop in the southeastern US. Widespread planting for wildlife benefit and erosion control began in the 1940's. The invasive qualities of *sericea lespedeza* were recognized in Kansas in 1987 and it was added to the Kansas Noxious Weed Law as a county option noxious weed. In 2000 the Kansas Legislature moved *sericea lespedeza* to the state wide noxious weed list and listed it in the Kansas Seed Law as a prohibited noxious weed. Herbicide controls exist and when combined with mechanical and grazing options, offer the producer effective management choices. The Multi-State *Sericea Lespedeza* Work Group, formed in 2000, continues as a means for public agencies and private landowners to share information.