

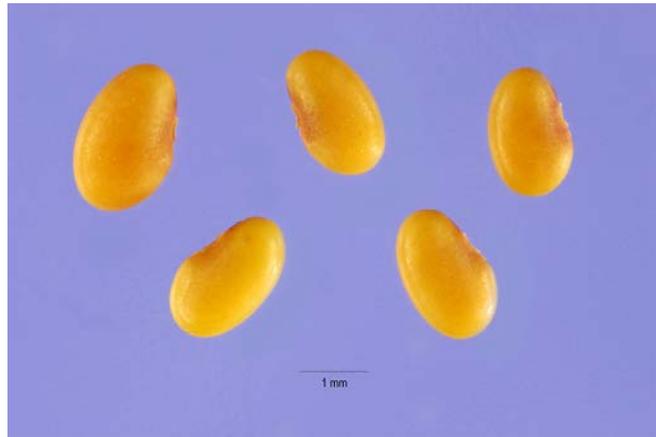
NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Lespedeza capitata

Scientific Name: *Lespedeza capitata*
Common Name: Roundhead Lespedeza



Thomas G. Barnes @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Steve Hurst @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Morphological Characteristics:

- bean Family (Fabaceae)
- herbaceous native perennial
- erect stems is simple and branched above
- petioles are 2-5 mm shorter than the stalk of the terminal leaflet
- numerous small trifoliolate leaves that are 4.5 1.8 cm and variable in shape and pubescence, often crowded along stem
- leaves and stems densely covered with appressed hairs giving the plant a silvery sheen
- flowers in August and September
- pea like flowers crowded in conspicuous green ball like clusters that are grouped together at the tips of the stems and are often over looked
- flower petals white with purple spot on banner petal
- calyx lobes are all separate and the wings exceed the keel
- cinnamon brown seeds heads after leaves drop
- fruits indehiscent and one seeded
- deep tap roots (2.5 meters) with many branched roots near the soil surface that extends up to a meter in all directions
- found in dry, open woods, sand dunes and prairies

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 342 Critical Area Plantings; 550 Range Planting; 512 Pasture and Hay Planting. 562 Recreation Area Improvement; Roundhead Lespedeza is readily eaten by livestock and is browsed by white-tailed deer. Seed are eaten by many species of birds especially bobwhite quail. In western portion of Texas there is a need for locally adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in restoration projects. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support this effort and the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas.

Centers Requesting Seed:

USDA-NRCS/James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center – Knox City, Texas

How to Collect Seed:

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or www.wildflower.org
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper bag and not in a plastic bag, because moisture will collect and mold seeds. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, and GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center below.

USDA-NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
3950 FM 1292 Suite 100
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

Helpful Tips:

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

Other Photos:



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database
Britton and Brown.1913



Courtesy of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
Ardmore, Oklahoma

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