

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

And

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AMES, IOWA

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
AMES, IOWA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF NORTHERN IOWA GERMPLASM  
ROUNDHEAD LESPEDEZA  
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM**

The Natural Resources conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Iowa Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program (IRVM), the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of roundhead lespedeza (*Lepedeza capitata*, Michx.) for Northern Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Northern Iowa Germplasm roundhead lespedeza to document its original collections. Northern Iowa Germplasm roundhead lespedeza is released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9062281.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of roundhead lespedeza collected from numerous native sites throughout this specific region. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for roadside plantings and prairie restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is high.

**Collection Site Information:** Collections were taken from native prairie remnants within the three tiers of counties located in northern Iowa.

**Ecotype Description:** Roundhead lespedeza is a tall (three and a half to four feet) warm season perennial native legume. It's stems are stiffish and relatively stout, simple below or with upright branches, 0.6-1.2 m. high; petioles short; leaflets thickish; heads of flowers subglobose, subsessile or on peduncle shorter than leaves, very dense; calyces 7-13 mm. long, villous, closely overlapping, the inner ones hidden, greatly exceeding the legume; minute cleistogamous and

apetalous flowers hidden among the others; corolla creamy-white, the standard with a purple spot at base.

Collections of roundhead lespedeza from east to west across Iowa prevent positive assessment of all pollination or chromosome characteristics. Plants are self-pollinated. For isolation requirements, roundhead lespedeza will be considered self-pollinated.

**Environmental Impact Assessment:** Northern Iowa Germplasm roundhead lespedeza is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Northern Iowa Germplasm roundhead lespedeza did not meet the assessment of a plant, which could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of Northern Iowa Germplasm roundhead lespedeza include roadside plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** Roundhead lespedeza occurs throughout the tallgrass prairie biome. Flowering begins in July and may continue until frost.

**Availability of Plant Materials:** G1 material is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center and the University of Northern Iowa. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012) or The University of Northern Iowa, Roadside Office, 113 CEEE, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293.

#### **References:**

*Flora of Missouri*; p.932; Steyermark, J. A; Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA 1968.

*A Field Guide to Wildflowers*; p. 80; Peterson, R. T. and McKenny, M. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass, 1968.

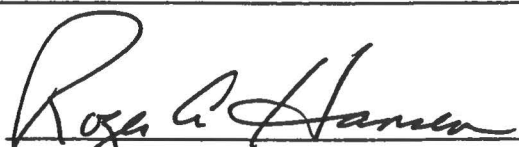
*Monomorphism, Reduced Gene Flow, and Cleistogamy in Rare and Common Species of Lespedeza (Fabaceae)*, pp. 567-574; Cole, Christopher T. and Biesboer, David D., University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, 1992.

#### **Prepared by:**

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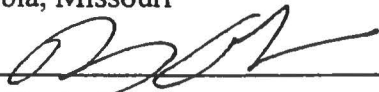
Signatures for release of:

Northern Iowa Germplasm roundhead lespedeza (*Lespedeza capitata*, Michx.)



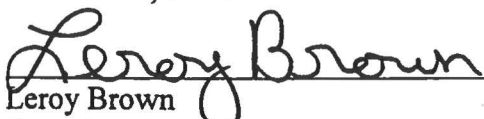
Roger A. Hansen  
State Conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Columbia, Missouri

9/5/00  
Date



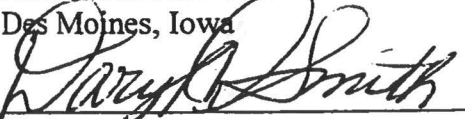
Robert Koob  
President  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

9-14-00  
Date



Leroy Brown  
State Conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Des Moines, Iowa

8/25/00  
Date



Daryl D. Smith  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

9-7-00  
Date



Robert E. Lawson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Iowa Crop Improvement Association  
Ames, Iowa

SEP 7 2000  
Date



Richard S. White *for Diane Gelburd*  
Director, Ecological Sciences Division  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington, D.C.

10/11/00  
Date