

Extension Shoppers Guide article for 9-13-16

## Fall Control of Sericea Lespedeza

Submitted by: David Kehler, County Extension Director/Agriculture Agent

Source Dr. Walt Fick, K – State Research & Extension, Range Management Specialist

Sericea Lespedeza is a serious threat to our pastures and rangeland. Because of its aggressive root system, prolific seed production and ability to thrive on soils of low fertility, landowners who have battled this weed probably have stronger and more colorful words than just describing sericea as a noxious weed. But, since sericea is labeled a noxious weed by state law, assistance in purchasing herbicides to battle this pest is available through your county weed department.

The recent rains in our area have caused sericea to be growing rapidly and began the onset of setting flowers. This is a prime time to apply herbicides and get effective control. After sericea has flowered and up until the first freeze, metsulfuron (marketed under Escort, Ally, Cimarron, and other trade names) is the herbicide of choice for control. Metsulfuron can control sericea even through seed fill, unless the plants are under drought stress. However, to avoid the formation of viable seed timing of spray is ideal toward the end of full flower.

It is also a good idea not to graze or hay sericea after it has gone to seed. This can prevent spread of seed by cattle to other areas. .

Controlling sericea is a multi-year process and any control measures will need followup to maintain effectiveness. Spraying remaining plants next in June when the plants are in a vegetative growth stage with Remedy or PastureGard according to label directions can further reduce stands of sericea.

## K-State Beef Stock Field Day, September 22

Visit the KSU Beef Stocker Unit for the latest practical information to help you make the most of significant changes occurring in the beef industry. We'll offer management tips to help you optimize your stocker operation and provide you with greater flexibility in the future.

Preregistration

Cost per participant is \$25 by September 15.

Location

The conference will take place at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit, 4330 Marlatt Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas.

You can get the complete details of the event and register online at:

<http://www.asi.k-state.edu/species/beef/stocker-conference.html>