

Lespedeza cuneata,

Chinese Bushclover

An aggressive invader of open spaces and meadows, the seed bank of this plant can last for decades. It was planted for erosion control but has a firm grasp in the wild spaces of the US at this point.

Population Status: Confirmed- Lower Hudson PRISM, From MN to TX, East Coast from FL to MA. HI.

Description: This is a shrubby, upright plant that can grow 3-6 feet tall. It has many leaves that are small and have a short petiole that grow in three short leaflets. (trifoliate) It prefers full sunlight.

Control: Hand-pulling is impractical. Yearly mowing can make an impact on stands and prevent spread.

Look-alikes: Slender lespedeza (native), can be distinguished from the invasive lespedeza by stem. The Chinese Bushclover has a thick, vigorous stem while the native has a thinner, weaker stem.

Flower Time and Description: It has white flowers with purple throats that bloom in July through October. This plant usually stays in flower for around a month.

