

# Soil Improvement With Lespedeza

By QUY A. CARDWELL  
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The fact that lespedeza will improve the soil on which they are grown so that subsequent crops of small grain corn, and cotton will be larger than before lespedeza was planted, is well established. The degree of this improvement—as measured by increased yields—will depend upon the way the lespedeza is handled and on soil and climatic conditions. When the lespedeza is cut for hay, increases of from 50 to 100 per cent in the yields of corn and cotton have frequently been recorded in North Carolina. The best practice appears to be to grow lespedeza for two or three years, utilizing it for hay or pasture, and to follow with one or two years of seed crops. When land has become so worn as not to be worth cultivating, it is often "turned out." Lespedeza comes in, but it takes several years to cover such poor ground through natural spread. A better plan is to disk and level after the last crop of corn or cotton and seed down to lespedeza. Superphosphate or basic slag, 300 to 400 pounds per acre, will help the lespedeza materially, and the lespedeza can be used for hay or pasture, or, if the farmer has no use for it, left on the ground to reseed and enrich the soil for a year or two.

Three species of lespedeza—two annual and one perennial—are of interest to the farmer. The annuals are

**DR. W. C. MERCER**  
DENTIST  
Announces the opening of the office formerly occupied by Dr. P. B. Cone for the practice of dentistry.

(1) The common, with two improved varieties, Tennessee No. 76, and Kobe; and (2) the Korean, with one extra-early variety. (3) The perennial.

The annual lespedezas are grown extensively in the south for hay, pasture, soil improvement, and seed production.

**Culture**  
The culture of lespedeza is simple. The seed is best sown on winter grain about the middle of March in the latitude of North Carolina, and somewhat earlier farther south and later farther north. If seeding is done too late for the freezing and thawing of the ground to work the seed under the surface, the field should be lightly harrowed after seeding. If 25 to 30 pounds of seed per acre is used, a hay crop may be expected that fall, provided soil and moisture conditions are suitable, or good grazing may be had beginning soon after grain harvest and lasting until frost. The secret of success with lespedeza is to get a full stand early. With a full stand, adverse conditions are less harmful than with a thin stand.

**Soil and Fertilizer**  
Lespedeza will grow on poor, worn soils and on soils too sour to grow clover without the use of lime. On very sour land lime is beneficial, but except on such soils lime has not been proved necessary. Phosphates have caused increased yields and should be used unless the soil is good, in which case they are not necessary. Moisture is usually the controlling factor in growth. While lespedezas, especially Korean, have shown remarkable ability to live on heavy soils during periods of severe drought, not much growth is made. For a growth tall enough to cut for hay, moisture is es-

sential. On dry sandy soils lespedeza may survive, but the growth is insignificant.

**Lespedeza for Hay**  
The best crops of hay are secured on moist bottom lands. On such soils the difference in growth and yield between common lespedeza and the improved varieties is less than on upland. On bottom land from 2 to 4 tons of hay to the acre may be expected. On good upland the improved sorts will outyield common lespedeza. It is generally believed that with a good stand 4 inches of lespedeza above the cutter bar will yield 1 ton of hay per acre. The Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station says of Korean that when a good stand is 8 to 9 inches high, a ton of hay may be expected, when 12 to 14 inches 2 tons; and when more than 24 inches 4 tons of hay may be expected. At any rate, the yields of hay are surprisingly heavy.

When cut early, that is before bloom when tall enough to make a ton of hay per acre, and if not cut too short, say 3 to 4 inches from the ground, lespedeza may be expected to make a new growth and to make a good seed crop in addition to the hay. The best hay is made when the lespedeza is not more than 15 inches high. When taller, it is more stemmy, with a smaller proportion of leaves.

To make the best hay, lespedeza should be cut when in full bloom, or shortly after. When it is left until a considerable part of the seed is ripe the resulting hay is of poorer grade. Lespedeza contains less moisture than alfalfa or red clover, is consequently more quickly cured, and the field-cured hay contains somewhat more dry matter than similarly cured alfalfa or clover hay.

When the lespedeza is from 6 to 10 inches high cutting may be done in the morning; the hay should be windrowed soon after being cut, and in good weather it may be hauled to the barn the next day. When the lespedeza is more than 15 inches high it should lie in the windrow 2 or 3 days.

Most lespedeza hay is consumed at home or in the neighborhood where it is produced. No grades for lespedeza hay have been established, and there is no general market. Good lespedeza hay falls but little short of alfalfa in protein and is even superior in carbohydrate content. Korean lespedeza hay has been used in Missouri to prepare fat cattle for stock shows and has given good results.

**Lespedeza for Pasture**  
Lespedeza is more widely used for pasture than for hay. Throughout the southeast lespedeza of one variety or another is or should be an ingredient of every pasture mixture. Lespedeza is a hot weather plant and should not be expected to provide early grazing. In North Carolina June 1 to 15 is a fair date to expect early grazing from lespedeza. Korean grows more rapidly in the spring than other lespedezas, but dies earlier, so that it is not so good for late grazing.

When cattle are grazed mostly on grass pasture it is advisable to have a reserve field of lespedeza upon which the cattle may be turned from July until frost. This will maintain gains or keep up and even increase the milk flow while resting the grass.

A good pasture of pure lespedeza may be expected to reproduce year after year as long as it is wanted. This is also generally true of grass-lespedeza pasture. The carrying capacity of a good stand of lespedeza may be roughly estimated at from 1 to 2 mature cows per acre from June 1 or July 1 to October 15 or frost, depending on the variety and location.

## URGE FARMERS TO GET MACHINERY IN SHAPE NOW FOR SPRING WORK

**First Step Is To Inspect All Machinery Carefully and Make Inventory of Repairs Needed and Parts To Be Replaced, Says Engineer**

Get your farm machinery ready for work before the spring rush starts, urges Professor David Weaver, agricultural engineer at N. C. State College, Raleigh.

The first step is to inspect all machinery carefully, he says, and make an inventory of repairs needed and the parts to be replaced.

The parts should be ordered as early as possible so they will arrive before the machines must be used, he explains, and the repair work scheduled so that the machinery to be used, first will be repaired first.

Look into the disk harrow bearings, examine the plow points, handles, and braces, ascertain the number of new parts needed, note the parts that need resharpening, tightening, or cleaning.

All harness gear should be gone over thoroughly, cleaned and oiled when necessary. See that there are

enough seed plates to handle all types of seed to be sown with the planter. Cultivators, mowing machines, and binders should be gone over carefully. New blades, bearings, sickles, rollers, gears, or chains may be needed. These machines should be so repaired and lubricated that they will operate smoothly and efficiently.

Binders should receive special attention, Weaver says, for they are complicated and a slight defect may give plenty of trouble in the midst of the harvest season. Rollers slightly out of line may tear the canvass. Rusty bill hooks or improper tension on the twine may throw the tying apparatus out of order.

This is only a brief outline of the things to be checked, Weaver, points out, but the farmer who operates the machines should not have trouble in locating the defects if he gives them a careful inspection.

## ADVISES GETTING READY TO PLANT LESPEDEZA CROP

**Agronomist Says Getting Ready As Important As Actual Seeding**

Getting ready for planting lespedeza is almost as important as the actual seeding itself, says Enos C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College.

If the grower raised his own seed, he should clean and prepare it for planting so that there will be no delay when planting time comes, Blair says.

Otherwise, he should investigate prices and the quality of seed handled by different seed houses so as to get the best available seed at the most reasonable prices and have time to order it before planting time.

Tennessee 76, Korean, Kobe, and common lespedeza are the varieties best adapted to North Carolina soils and most frequently planted, Blair points out. About 25 pounds to the acre is sufficient.

Although lespedeza will not grow well except when handled carefully, it is not as difficult to raise as many people think, and it is one of the best soil builders and hay crops that can be grown.

When planting lespedeza on small grains which were sown the preceding fall, Blair says, the lespedeza should be planted in February or March. The lespedeza will grow after the grain has been harvested and may be grazed, plowed under, or harvested for seed in the fall.

For detailed instructions regarding lespedeza in different sections of the state, Blair suggests that the farmers consult their county agents.

## BALANCED DIET FOR FAMILY IS FINE INSURANCE

**Six Essential Food Groups Must Be Considered, Nutritionist Says**

Planning the family food supply according to the nutrition needs of the human body is the best kind of health insurance, says Miss Mary E. Thomas, nutritionist at State College.

There are six essential food groups which must be included in the diet to build strong bodies and keep them in good health, she says. The six groups are:

Milk, lean meats, eggs and fish; butter and other fats; vegetables and fruits; grain products; sugar and other sweets.

It may not be convenient to prepare the diet so that all these groups are included in the meals for each day, she said, but the diet should be so balanced that the necessary amounts of each food will be prepared each week.

To guide the housewife in preparing her meals, the college extension service has prepared a food chart showing the needs of the family. These charts and other suggestions regarding a healthful diet may be obtained from the home demonstration agents in the different counties.

Early in the year is the time to start planning the food budget, Miss Thomas said, so that the gardening program will be adequate to the needs of the family and the necessary amount of poultry products, meat, milk and other things can be raised.

Any farm family, she added, can raise at home the foods needed to keep a human body in good health.

## Legion Auxiliary To Meet With Miss Peel Saturday

The regular monthly meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary of the John Walton Hassell post will be held Saturday afternoon, February 16, at 3:00 o'clock in the home of Miss Eva Peel, Williamston.

## CARD OF HANKS

We take this method to thank our many friends and neighbors for their many acts of kindness and help during the illness and death of our dear husband and father, and for the many floral offerings.—Mrs. Thad G. Manning and family.

is required by law to file a statement within three months showing a perfect inventory of all property and money in his charge. Thereafter, he must file an annual report and, when all business has been completed, a final statement must be submitted to the clerk of court.

Mr. Wynne says that executors, administrators and collectors in this county have been noticeably indifferent in complying with this law and he urges that those who have neglected their duty in this respect come in at once and file their report.

## NOTICE

North Carolina, Martin County; In Superior Court.  
William Tyner vs. Penny Tyner Defendant. Penny Tyner, will take

notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Martin County, North Carolina, to obtain an absolute divorce on the grounds of separation; the said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the office of the clerk superior court of said county in the courthouse in Williamston, N. C., within thirty (30) days after service of summons and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This 28th day of January, 1935.  
L. B. WYNNE,  
Clerk Superior Court.

## COUGHS

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## STATEMENT OF ROANOKE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

Williamston, N. C.

For the Year 1934

Paid Deaths		Income	
No.	Name	Amount	Collection on Assessments 16 to 38, inclusive
16.	H. B. Barber	\$100.00	\$2,682.46
17.	Mrs. C. F. Whitaker	100.00	
18.	Joshua Warren	100.00	
19.	W. M. Davenport	100.00	
20.	Mrs. Emily C. Leggett	100.00	
21.	J. F. Jackson	100.00	
22.	Mrs. Kizzie Davenport	100.00	
23.	Mrs. Maggie Stocks	100.00	
24.	L. B. Godard	100.00	
25.	Mrs. Minnie Warren	100.00	
26.	J. G. Wynn	100.00	
27.	Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker	100.00	
28.	Mrs. Susan V. Beach	100.00	
29.	L. B. Ange	100.00	
30.	J. L. Clark	100.00	
31.	Mrs. Ida Warren	100.00	
32.	H. G. Chesson	100.00	
33.	W. A. Jenkins	100.00	
34.	Mrs. Mary E. Vanderford	100.00	
35.	N. J. Modlin	100.00	
36.	Mrs. Annie C. Warren	100.00	
37.	A. W. Salisbury	100.00	
38.	C. L. Ange	100.00	
Total		\$2,300.00	
Expense		134.99	
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1934		\$2,434.99	
		247.47	
		\$2,682.46	\$2,682.46

NOTE—The above statement does not include the following deaths, which occurred during December: Mr. Biggs Cox, Mr. J. S. Smith, Mrs. C. S. Jackson. Collection of assessments covering these deaths will show on the following year's business.

NOTICE—The annual meeting of this association will be held Monday, February 11th, 1935, at the office of B. S. Courtney's Furniture Store, at 3:30 P. M. You are cordially invited to be present.

M. W. COURTNEY, Secretary.

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