

**NEWS RELEASE
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**NDA DIRECTOR IBACH DECLARES SERICEA LESPEDEZA A
NOXIOUS WEED IN NEBRASKA**

LINCOLN – In order to protect the quality of Nebraska’s agricultural and other land, Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach is designating sericea lespedeza as a noxious weed in Nebraska. The designation will take effect on April 1, 2013.

“This weed poses a threat to our native ranges and pastureland as well as other natural areas,” Ibach said. “It can reduce or even eliminate native grasses, and it affects the quality and quantity of pasture available to our livestock herds.”

Sericea lespedeza is a perennial that grows well in grasslands and pastures as well as along roadsides and drainage areas. The weed currently is found mainly in southeastern Nebraska and can be spread by wildlife and livestock. Infested areas that are utilized for hay production accelerate the spread of the weed into new areas.

With the addition of sericea lespedeza, Nebraska has 12 noxious weeds. The list includes: Canada thistle, leafy spurge, musk thistle, plumeless thistle, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, saltcedar, phragmites, Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed.

Those with questions about sericea lespedeza should contact their local county weed control superintendent. Questions also may be directed to the NDA Noxious Weed Program Manager at (402) 471-6844.

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