



# Quail Times

Summer/Fall 2019

## UPCOMING WORKSHOP

**When:** Thursday April 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM  
**Where:** Newberry South Carolina Forestry Commission Office (39 General Henderson Road, Newberry, SC 29108)  
**Speaker:** John Seymour, Round Stone Seed  
**Topic:** Native Species for quail, benefits to landowners & wildlife, establishment, and importance of site preparation.  
**Cost:** \$10 registration fee, meal included  
RSVP by April 19 to Jeff Fellers @ [fellers@clemson.edu](mailto:fellers@clemson.edu) or 864-427-6259.

The Indian Creek Quail Restoration Committee will host a meeting at the Newberry South Carolina Forestry Commission Office to educate landowners and professionals on native species for quail. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Jeff Fellers at 864-427-6259 or [fellers@clemson.edu](mailto:fellers@clemson.edu). **Pre-registration is required in order for an accurate head count for the meal. Checks can be made out to: Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District and mailed to: ATTN: Indian Creek, 120 Kirby Street, Union, SC 29379.**

## Invasive Species Spotlight

### *Sericea Lespedeza* and/or Chinese Lespedeza

By: Jeff Fellers

While some invasive species may be utilized by quail, one must keep in mind that diversity is important when managing for most any wildlife species. Quail may use different species and different habitat types throughout their life cycle. Invasive species are known to colonize and dominate an area or landscape therefore reducing the plant diversity available to wildlife. In order to maintain diversity and wildlife habitat it is critical to be able to identify invasive species and control them before they affect habitat quality.

The following information was obtained from NC State University Going Native Website:  
<https://projects.ncsu.edu/goingnative/howto/mapping/invexse/sericeal.html>

And

Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forest: A Field Guide for Identification and Control publication by James Miller:

[https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr\\_srs062/](https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs062/)

**Common Name:** *Sericea Lespedeza*, Chinese Lespedeza

**Scientific Name:** *Lespedeza cuneate*



Figure 1: Image of *Sericea Lespedeza* from Texas A&M Plants of Texas Rangelands

### Identification:

- perennial upright forb reaching 3 to 6 feet in height
- leaves are alternate and composed of numerous 3-leaflet clusters.
- leaves are usually green with white beneath.
- stem is gray-green. The white flowers are composed of 1 to 3 pea-like flowers and appear from July to September. Clustered legume pods are scattered around the stem, contain one seed, and mature from October to March.

### Ecology:

- occurs in forest openings and dry to wet sites.
- seed is long lived
- prescribed burning can promote spread
- remains standing dormant most of winter
- forms dense stands that prohibit other species from sprouting
- semi-woody
- flowers July to September
- fruits and seeds October to March
- resembles native lespedeza
- introduced from Japan in 1899

## Spotlighting a Native Eastern Gammagrass By Gary Peters



Figure 2: Image of *Sericea Lespedeza* from Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Forages Database

### Plant Control:

- difficult to control
- Mowing 1 to 3 months before herbicide application can assist control.
- Thoroughly wet all leaves with one of the following herbicides in water with a surfactant July to September
  - Garlon 4 as a 2-percent solution (8 ounces per 3-gallon mix)
  - Escort XP at three-fourths of an ounce per acre (0.2 dry ounces per 3-gallon mix)
  - Transline as a 0.2-percent solution (1 ounce per 3-gallon mix)
  - glyphosate herbicide as a 2-percent solution (8 ounces per 3-gallon mix)
  - Velpar L as a 2-percent solution (8 ounces per 3-gallon mix).
- Monitor and re-treat as needed until eradicated.

**Alternative Native Species:** Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Eastern Gammagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), Splitbeard Bluestem (*Andropogon ternarius*), Beggarlice (*Desmodium* spp.), Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)

What would you say if there was a plant that had the same nutritional value and digestibility of alfalfa? It requires essentially no fertilizer, grows in the heat of the summer, is naturally drought tolerant, and grows just about anywhere except in a swamp. Too good to be true? Not by a long shot.

Eastern gammagrass, (a distant relative of field corn) has the unique combination of all these traits and can add to the quality of overhead cover, increase insect production, and provide excellent forage for wildlife as well as livestock. In fact, the cattle farmers of old called it ‘ice cream grass’. Why? Because when the cows were turned into a fresh pasture they would head for eastern gammagrass plants first and eat it before they turned to grazing the rest of the field. Who can argue with a cow?



Roots that go deep (depths in excess of 15’ are common) provide this bunch grass with lush foliage that in most soil types exceed shoulder heights of people during the hottest driest months of summer. Yields over 6 tons/acre of dry matter are common, good for hay, good cover for wildlife.

Like most native species eastern gammagrass likes as little weed competition as possible to get started. Once established however an annual burn is all that is needed to keep them thriving. Two crops of flowers per year provide dozens of kernel-like seeds, a source of food for wildlife and a way for the plants to propagate.



**Common Name:** Eastern gammagrass

**Scientific Name:** *Tripsacum dactyloides*

**Identification:**

- Perennial upright grass 3 – 6 feet in height
- Linear green grasslike leaves 1 – 1 1/2" wide
- Leaf venation is parallel
- A bunch grass, 1 plant may occupy spaces 6' in diameter or more

**Ecology:**

- Grows in full sun to partial shade
- Prolific foliage producer
- Responds well to annual prescribed burning, spring growing season burns are best
- Two crops of flowers/seeds per summer
- Persistent hard seed eaten by deer, birds, and other granivores
- Attracts butterflies
- Host plant for Bunchgrass skipper and Byssus skipper larvae



South Carolina  
Forestry Commission

# EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

2018-2019 PRICE GUIDE

Effective July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

## Equipment

### Tree Planters

\$5/acre  
\$25 minimum

### Drum Choppers

\$20/acre  
\$100 minimum

### Drum Chopper

**Transportation Fee:** \$3.50 per mile from SCFC headquarters in Columbia to and from the site.  
\$50 minimum

All equipment is strictly for forestry use. A \$200 deposit is required, refundable upon satisfactory return of equipment. SCFC may prohibit use of equipment due to unpaid bills or high damage potential.

## Services

### Insect & Disease Laboratory Services

SCFC forest health specialists examine forest insect/disease pests or tissue samples at no charge. They will identify pests and prescribe appropriate control measures.

### Firebreak Plowing & Waterbar Construction

#### Medium Tractor

\$140\* for first hour  
\$85 for each extra hour  
\$140 minimum

#### Large Tractor

\$160\* for first hour  
\$100 for each extra hour  
\$160 minimum

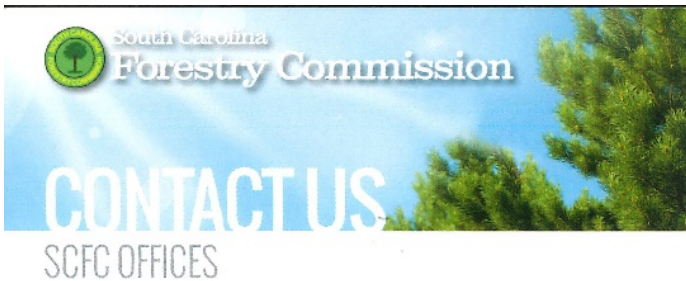
### Prescribed Burning

\$21/acre for understory burning  
(firebreak plowing not included)

\$30/acre for understory burning in mountainous terrain and site preparation burning (firebreak plowing not included)  
\$500 minimum for all prescribed burning services

### Standby for Prescribed Burning

\$80\* for first hour, \$35 for each additional hour  
\$115 minimum (landowner is responsible for fire and must follow an SCFC-approved burning plan)



#### Headquarters

South Carolina Forestry Commission  
5500 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29212  
Phone: (803) 896-8800

#### Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda Counties

SC Forestry Commission  
130 McDaniel Ave.  
Pickens, SC 29671  
Phone: (864) 878-6134

#### Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper Counties

SC Forestry Commission  
PO Box 486  
Hampton, SC 29924  
Phone: (803) 943-3915

#### Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Williamsburg Counties

SC Forestry Commission  
596 IM Graham Rd.  
Kingstree, SC 29556  
Phone: (843) 382-8761

#### Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Dorchester, Orangeburg Counties

SC Forestry Commission  
353 Fire Tower Rd.  
Orangeburg, SC 29118  
Phone: (803) 534-3543

#### Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Spartanburg, Union, York Counties

SC Forestry Commission  
39 General Henderson Rd  
Newberry, SC 29108  
Phone: (803) 276-0205

#### Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Marlboro, Sumter Counties

SC Forestry Commission  
6725 Headquarters Road  
Wedgetfield, SC 29168  
Phone: (803) 494-8488

*The USDA Forest Service and the South Carolina Forestry Commission are equal opportunity providers and employers.*



Due to funding, mailings are becoming harder to offer. If you would like to receive our newsletters and field day notifications electronically, please contact Jeff Fellers at 864-427-6259 Ext: 115 or at [fellers@clemson.edu](mailto:fellers@clemson.edu).

## Indian Creek Prescribed Burn Trailer Available Soon!

Soon landowners will be able to rent a trailer equipped with all the basic fire equipment needed to conduct a prescribed burn. Thanks to donations from the National Wild Turkey Federation, South Carolina Forestry Commission, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Newberry County Soil and Water Conservation District, Clemson Extension, Quality Deer Management

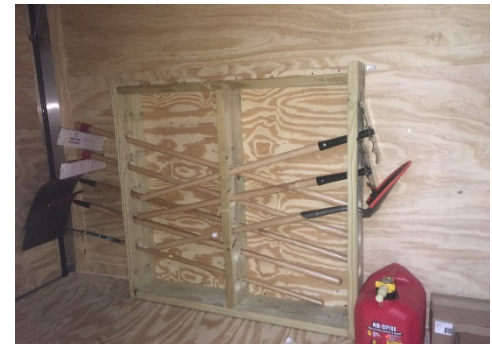
Association, Quail Forever, and the Midstate Quail and Dove Conservation Society we should have the trailer up and running by the end of April.

Here's a sneak preview of how it will look.



Everything needed to conduct a prescribed burn safely is provided with the trailer; drip torches, weather kit, hand tools, back pack sprayers, water supply, fuel cans, road signs, and radios for communication.

Here's a snapshot of how it looks on the inside;



The trailer will be available to assist landowners, professionals, and practitioners on a first come first serve basis. There will be a daily fee of \$50 for the first day, and a \$10 fee for every day thereafter. Rentals are to be scheduled in advance through the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District (803) 596-3160. A damage deposit of \$50 will also be required.

But it's not just for fire season. There is an educational component being built into this trailer. It is available for display and 'hands on' experience for people to learn about prescribed fire at county fairs, field days, and more. Just call Newberry SWCD to make the arrangements.