LESPEDEZA is a genus comprising 125 species, only two of which are annuals. These two, *Lespedeza striata* (Thunb) H. and A. and *L. stipulacea* Maxim, and one perennial, *L. cuneata* (Dumont) G. Don, are the only species of agronomic importance in the United States. It is not known how the common lespedeza, *L. striata*, came to America but according to Pieters (8) the earliest record of finding this legume was in 1846 in northeast Georgia. By 1850 it had become established in fields and along roadsides of Georgia and kept spreading rapidly in the southeastern states. The first recorded planting of sericea, *L. cuneata*, was in 1896, and the introduction of Korean lespedeza, *L. stipulacea*, was in 1919. Soon afterwards it was frequently observed that Korean lespedeza seemed to require specific strains of *Rhizobium* to bring about its most effective inoculation. No inoculation problem apparently was encountered with either the common or sericea species.

In 1928 Kinney and Kenny (5) stated that there was some indication that the bacteria of Korean lespedeza was different from that of the common. Duggar (2), the same year and throughout each of the 5 years following, noted that plants developed significantly fewer nodules per plant than the common, Tennessee 76, and Kobe lespedeza. The latter three varieties formed nodules promptly and abundantly. Duggar (3) also noted that treating the seed of Korean lespedeza with a culture made from its own nodules usually afforded an increase in the average number of nodules per plant. When sericea lespedeza was inoculated with a culture made from its own nodules the plants averaged over three times as many nodules as where the seed was not inoculated.

Pieters (8) in 1933 made the statement that the lespedezas are inoculated by the same strain of bacteria as for cowpea, but he noted that on very poor soils Korean is not as readily inoculated as the common. On the better soils there were indications that a special strain of inoculating organism was not warranted. Later Pieters (9) made the further observation that Korean is inoculated with somewhat more difficulty than common lespedeza, and suggested that it was not improbable that the greater difficulty with Korean may be associated with

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