

## Hairy bush-clover

# *Lespedeza* (L.) Hornem.

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Fabaceae (legume)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

**Duration:** Perennial

**U.S. Nativity:** Native, much of eastern U.S.

**Natural Enemies Attracted:** Medium numbers of [Coccinellidae](#). Small numbers of [Orius insidiosus](#), [Chalcidoidea](#), [Thomisidae](#), [Salticidae](#) and [Plagiognathus politus](#).

**Pests Attracted:** Small numbers of Japanese beetles, leafhoppers, lygus bugs, thrips and leaf beetles.

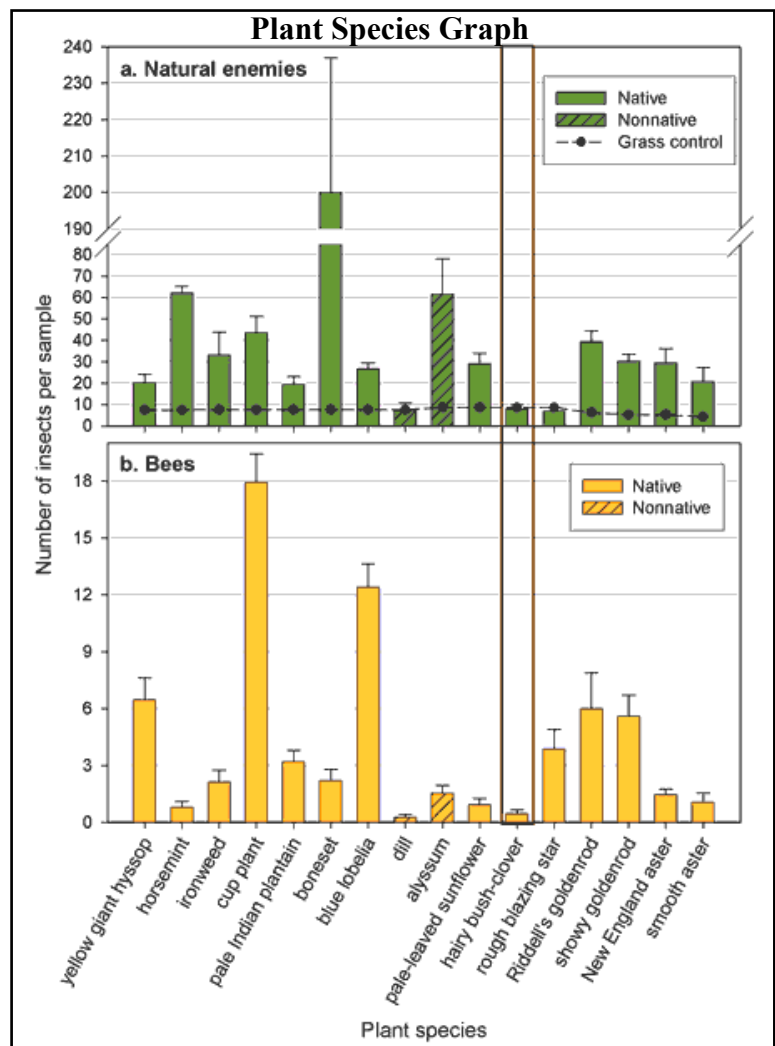
**Bees attracted:** Low numbers (less than 1 bee per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bumble bees.

**Species Notes:** Small white, pea-like flower spikes bloom on small-statured plants. Plants grow 2-3 ft tall. This species did not flower until its third year of growth, and bloomed in the end of August and early September. This species was the third least attractive to natural enemies in the late season, with similar numbers of natural enemies as in the grass control.



**About the Plant Species Graph:**

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). Hairy bush-clover (*Lespedeza hirta*) boxed in red. Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.



**Habitat:** Includes full sun and very dry soils. Naturally occurring in dry open areas, often with sandy ground, such as along roadways, river banks, and fields. Sometimes associated with oak and oak-hickory woods.

**Cultivation and Management:** Can be grown from seed (flowers in fourth year) or plug material (flowers in third year). This plant is nitrogen-fixing and will grow on dry, infertile sites.

**Availability:** Species is available as seed, plug or container grown material from native plant nurseries; available but not widely so. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

**For more information:** View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

