PLANT FACT SHEET

Lespedeza bicolor Turczaninow

GENUS *Lespedeza* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Lespedeza, Tartary Bush-clover

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves, Seeds, Leaves - tea

The leaves are used as a tea substitute.
The leaves and flowers are eaten, boiled or fried.
The seeds are occasionally boiled and eaten with rice.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub 1-3 m tall. It keeps growing from year to year, It has many branches. It can be somewhat climbing. The leaves are clover-like with 3 leaflets. They are green above and paler underneath. The flowers are in loose groups along the branches. The flowers are pea like and purple. The fruit are one seeded pods about 5 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It will grow on arid soils. In China it grows between 100-1,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 5-8.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is usually grown from seed. It can be grown from division of the root crown, removing suckers or semi-woody cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 40-100 Lespedeza species. Also as Papilionaceae.

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