

## **Native Legumes for Conservation**

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Native legumes are an especially important component in native grass seedings and prairie reclamation plantings. An established mixture of grasses and legumes offers the best chance for sustainable, consistent forage production. Legumes that are compatible with native warm season grass growth and reproductive cycles are ideal. The recent release of three native legumes from the Manhattan PMC capitalizes on the compatibility and sustainability issues. These legumes can also be utilized for wildlife habitat treatments, critical area seedings and in roadsides, parks and recreational areas for stabilization and beautification. 'Kanoka' roundhead lespedeza (*Lespedeza capitata*) was released in 1998 as a variety. 'Reno' germplasm Illinois bundleflower (*Desmanthus illinoensis*) and 'Riley' germplasm showy partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) were released in 1999 as tested class and source-identified releases, respectively. Kanoka and Reno are perennial species while Riley showy partridge pea is an annual. Kanoka is a composite of accessions from Kansas and Oklahoma while Reno and Riley have their origin in Kansas counties by the same names. Being legumes they all tend to have a hard seed component that can be compensated for by scarification of the seed units. They should all be planted with the appropriate rhizobium inoculant. Discussion will include establishment, area of adaptation and utilization of the three legume species.