

Lespedeza daurica – a quiz

Invasive Dahurian bush clover

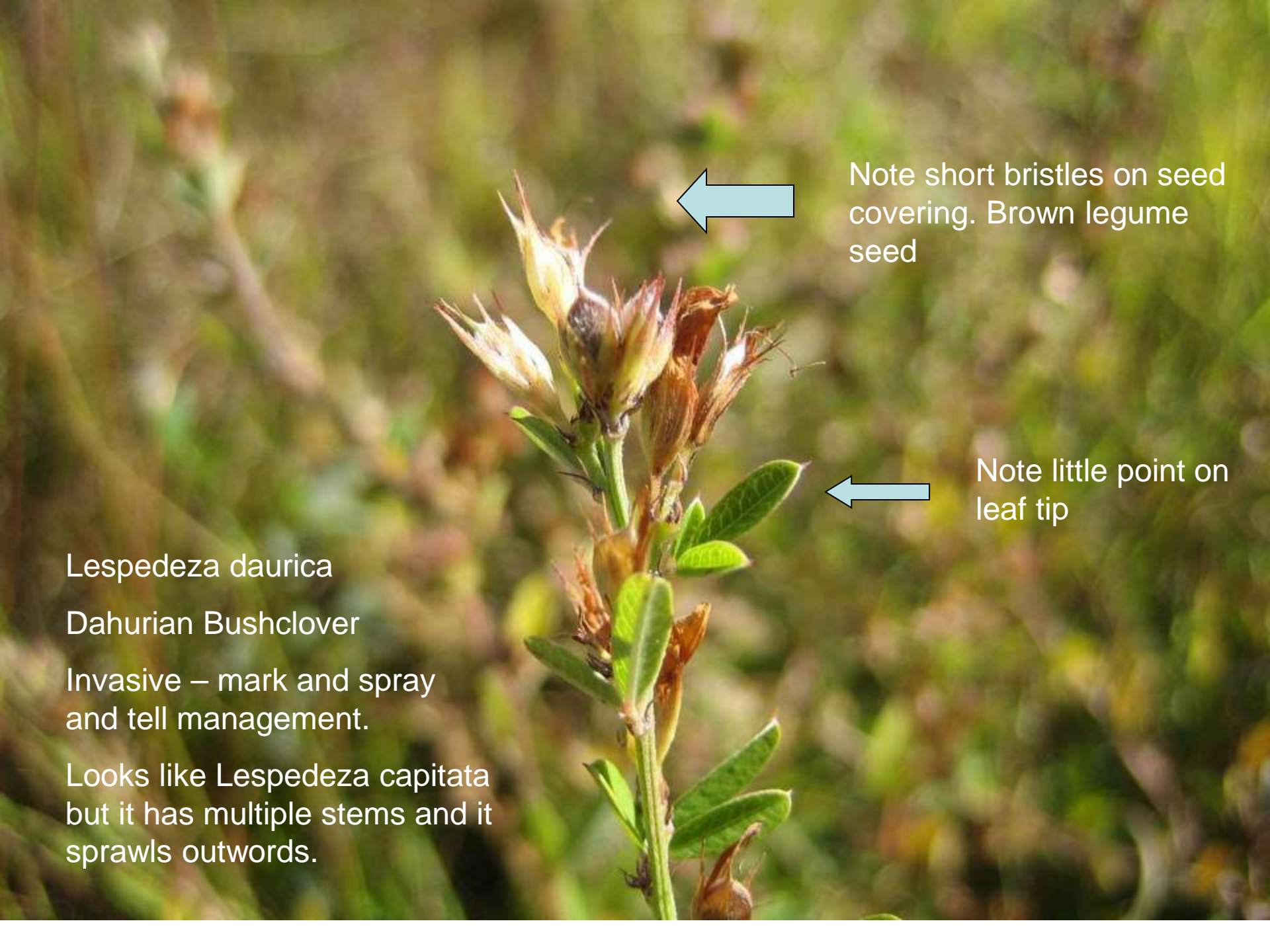
September 2023 by Bill Kleiman

Our area has five *Lespedeza* species, two are invasive

- *L capitata*, round headed bush clover –native
- *L virginica*, slender bush clover – native
- *L leptostachya*, prairie bush clover – native and rare
- *L cuneata*, sericea lespedeza – invasive
- *L daurica*, Dahurian bush clover - invasive

L daurica, Dahurian bush clover

- Our highest ranked invasive plant
- Below are images of Lespedeza
- Help us by knowing it when you see it
- Look at examples in the field
- Map occurrences
- Treat all plants
- By mid-September seeds should be carefully hauled to trash



Note short bristles on seed covering. Brown legume seed

Note little point on leaf tip

Lespedeza daurica

Dahurian Bushclover

Invasive – mark and spray and tell management.

Looks like *Lespedeza capitata* but it has multiple stems and it sprawls outwards.

Lespedeza daurica

Invasive

Note how plant is multi-stemmed
and sprawls outwards.



L. daurica sprawls low.
The other *Lespedeza*
are erect.



L. daurica foliage w long petioles, leaves larger than *L. cuneata*, but not fuzzy like *L. capitata*.





Another view of the way *L daurica* sprawls on the ground

L. daurica

Note long leaf petioles that occur especially on lower stem.

Round headed bush clover has a very short petiole.



Here is a young *L. daurica* found underneath a mature plant



L daurica: note leaf
petiole and red cast to
stem.





Legume flowers
of *L daurica*
blooms in July
into August

L. daurica seed heads look spiny. Tiny point on end of leaf.



L capitata, round
headed bush clover

Note the round heads,
compare to diffuse
heads of *L daurica*



2007 Josh Clark cutting, & treating the cut stems and hauling out *L. daurica*.

We made a little campfire and burned many barrels this first year of a positive ID of the species back in 2007



- This invasive arrived with a seed order we made for slender bush clover. The native plant nursery was wild picking an invasive plant by mistake.
- This has cost us a lot

I am holding
Lespedeza capitata
(round headed
bushclover) in front of a
L. cuneata (*sericea*
lespedeza).

L. cuneata is invasive

We had this one *L.*
cuneata show up in the
Nachusa Senger
planting in 2022.



Same plant from previous slide, now dead *L. cuneata* sprayed with a touch of basal bark mix near soil. Very little collateral damage.



L cuneata again

“sericea lespedeza”

- An invasive Lespedeza
- Nachusa gets an occasional plant but no footholds.
- Note all the little leaves of three, with some bigger leaves lower down that I hold
- Cuneata stands erect and it typically 3 foot tall



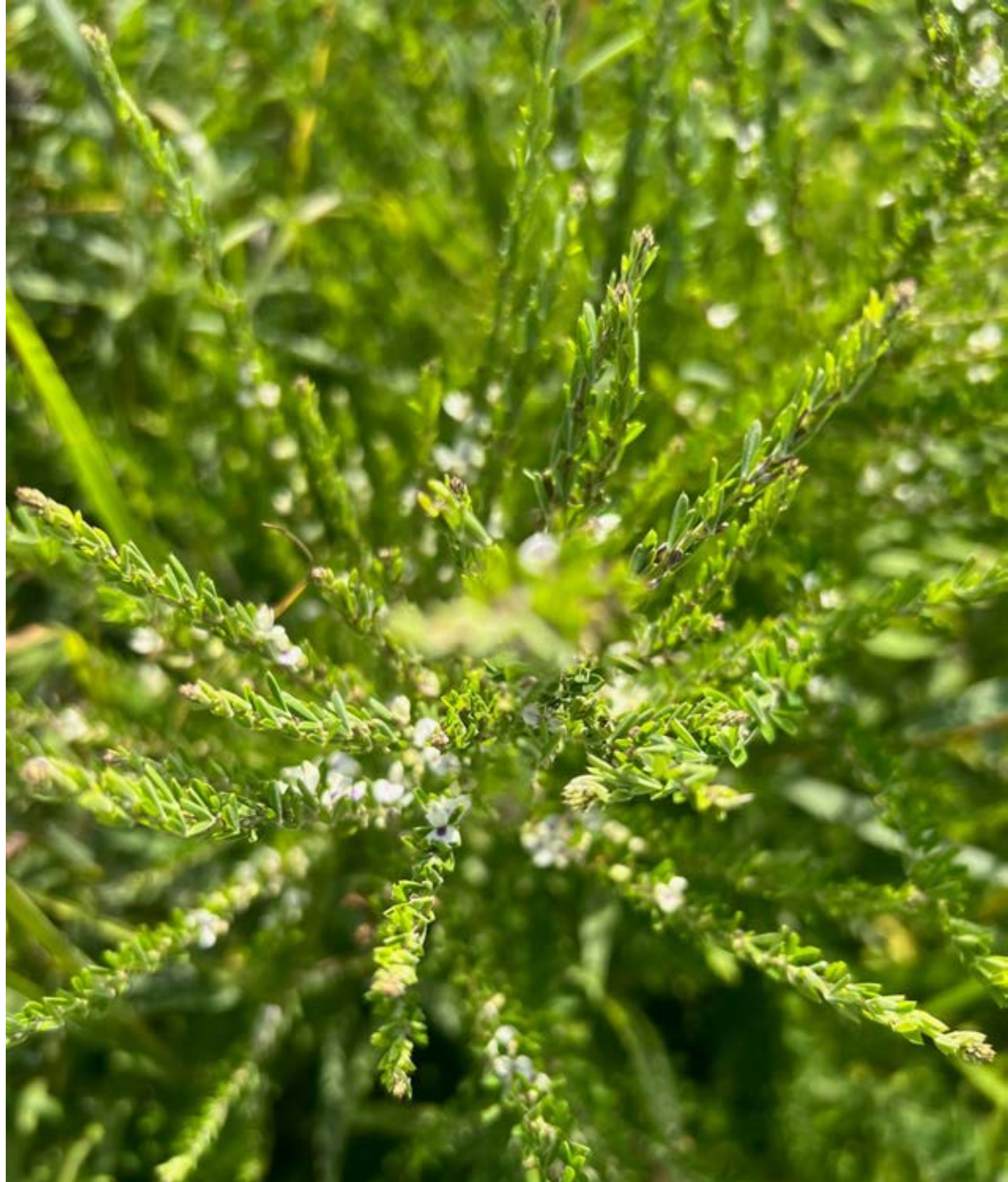
L. cuneata
is erect,
tall, with
little
leaves of
3



L cuneata with
flowers and
tiny leaves of 3



L cuneata in
flower



L cuneata patch



What is this?



What is this?



- This is *L. cuneata*
- Lots of little leaves of 3
- reddish stem
- This one is erect and 3 foot tall

L leptostachya, prairie bushclover – our rare native Lespedeza



L leptostachya is a dainty plant, here with both green and mature seeds



L leptostachya seed, seed capsule, seed capsule attachment and seed head.



L leptostachya: The skinny one with legume seed heads. Not the rosinweed in middle, the Desmodium (tick trefoil) on left with its leaves of 3, and string of seeds that stick to you



L virginica – slender bush clover



- Native plant
- This one looks most like daurica
- The long leaf petiole like daurica
- Flowers bigger
- It is slender, upright
- Occurs at Nachusa's Big Jump Prairie unit

L virginica – slender bush clover



- We found this one in a planting.
- Stands upright

L virginica – slender bush clover



- A closer view

Lespedeza daurica

In bloom July 25 2022. Also seen in bloom in August and early September





L. daurica sprawling out



L. capitata top (fuzzy leaves and stem) vs *L. daurica* lower (longer leaf petiole common, not much fuzz)

L daurica

- Long leaf petioles
- Often some red tint on stem.





L. daurica sprawling w red tint on stem. Not all plants have the red tint.

L. daurica has deep and tough fibrous roots which makes this hard to dig up. This is why we use a herbicide. Note multiple stems I am holding that emerge off the root.



L daurica seed heads

- Note bristles on seed heads
- Leaves with distinct tips at end



L capitata

- Round seed heads
- Fuzzy
- Erect
- Shorter leaf petioles



Desmodium canadense
showy tick trefoil

This is not a *Lespedeza*, but the legume family with leaves of 3, but the leaves are larger than any *Lespedeza*, short leaf petioles, typically standing fairly upright.



Desmodium canadense, showy tick trefoil.
Photos from IL Wildflowers



Which of these two are *Lespedeza capitata*?



Which of these two are *Lespedeza capitata*?



- These are both *L. capitata*, round headed bushclover. The left one was just not robust on its seed head.

What is this?



What this is



- This is *Desmodium canadense*, showy tick trefoil
- A legume too
- Leaves of three, but those are huge leaves of *Desmodium*.
- Short petioles too

What this is



- Here are the seed heads of the *Desmodium canadense*. These stick to you.

What is this?



What this is

- This is *Lespedeza capitata*, round headed bush clover
- Fuzzy leaves and stems. The fuzz is short but you can see and feel it with a specimen in hand.
- Round seed heads
- Short leaf petioles



What is this?



What this is

L. daurica

- A few leaves show the long petioles
- The seed heads are not round.
- A bushy look



What is this?



What this is

L
leptostachya
Prairie
bushclover

- Petite plant.
- Typically one stem
- Leaves thin
- Our rarest plant



What is this?



What this is

- White prairie clover, *Dalea candida*, with a round headed bushclover behind
- Both legumes



What is this?



What this is

L. daurica

- Lots of small flowers late summer
- The seed heads are not round.
- A bushy look
- Laying over



L daurica

Yellowing several
days after herbicide.

This plant can get
as abundant as
birdsfoot trefoil



L daurica patch.



L daurica

- Note the plants are not towering, but sprawling
- Here, we spray the base of plant with basal bark herbicide.
- Most foliar broadleaf also herbicides work, but not Transline.
- Glyphosate works too.
- Flagging helps us find them for a revisit a week later
- Map the occurrence



Thank you for trying to learn about *Lespedeza daurica*

- You may spot them doing stewardship or science
- If found, flag plants and report them. Treat them if possible.
- We need help finding them.
- Once mapped we can target that area annually.

The End