

Seed Share

at Main Library in Hillsborough



OrangeCountyLibrary.org

Main Library at 137 West Margaret Lane
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278



Partridge Pea

Chamaecrista fasciculata

kam-ee-KRIS-ta fa-sik-yoo-LAY-tuh



NC native annual



winter sow or cold
stratify & spring sow



blooms summer
to fall



full sun



likes well drained,
dry to medium
water conditions;
any type of soil



pollinator & bird
favorite; resists deer

Growing Instructions

Because Partridge Pea seeds have a hard outer shell, it's best to scarify them with sandpaper prior to sowing. Winter sow or plant in containers in early spring after cold stratifying for 20 days. Plant seeds ½ inch deep in moist soil. If container planting, choose a location for morning sun and afternoon shade, and keep the soil moist but not wet. Transplant seedlings when they have true leaves.

Garden like it's 1776!

A little colonial plant lore for the nation's 250th birth year

Botanical Illustration, 1790 by William Curtis

Partridge pea was historically used by Indigenous Peoples as medicine for nausea and fatigue. European settlers valued the stems of the plant as a source of rope fiber and seed floss for padding material and in textiles when mixed with wool. Botanists like Michaux, who changed partridge pea's scientific classification in 1803 from Linnaeus' earlier one, promoted partridge pea as a plant that improves soil fertility by fixing nitrogen. Though frequently thought of as a roadside plant, by the time partridge pea was given its current scientific name by Greene in 1897, it had long been garden cultivated.

