

## ANNUALS

### *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (Cassia f.) - Partridge Pea



Native to the prairies, abandoned fields and open waste and roadside areas of the eastern United States, partridge pea is a leguminous annual with compound foliage and bright yellow blooms in summer to early fall. Plants grow 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall and will reseed. Partridge pea provides showy flowers during the first year of a meadow planting and functions as an erosion control ground cover that allows other plants to become

established. Because it is a legume, nodules on its roots fix nitrogen from the atmosphere, eliminating the need for fertilization.

Partridge pea should be seeded into average to dry loamy soil in full sun to part shade. It is best grown in disturbed soils. Flowers usually are cross-pollinated by bees but sometimes flowers are self-pollinating. Flowers also attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other insects, and plants provide cover for birds and small mammals. Seeds are an important food source for bobwhite quail. Caterpillars of several sulfur butterfly species feed on partridge pea foliage. Deer occasionally browse plant foliage.

Partridge pea can be grown as an ornamental or for honey production if bee hives are nearby.