Cultivar and Ecotype recommendations for Partridge Pea and Switchgrass (Guidance for CRP, CP-36)

Problematic cultivar of *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (Large-Flower Partridge Pea)- "Lark" (AR) – not recommended

This cultivar grows thick and tall, can cause longleaf pine seedling mortality and dominate wildlife habitat planting areas reducing diversity

Comanche (TX) and Riley (KS) are other cultivars available commercially but because they originated outside of the southeast and are adapted for portions of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; they are not recommended.

Recommended/preferred alternatives:

Large-Flower Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) - **Florida ecotype or other Southeastern Regional ecotypes are available commercially** - Seed vendors should provide seed ecotype information. Use light rate at 0.5 lb./acre or less. Use the closest ecotype available.
If using large-flower partridge pea, do not seed until longleaf are several feet tall.

Small-Flower Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista nictitans*)- this species is smaller in stature and will not dominate or over-top longleaf seedlings.

Slender Bushclover (*Lespedeza virginica),* Roundhead Lespedeza (*Lespedeza capitata),* Hairy Lespedeza *(Lespedeza hirta);* use 0.4 lbs. per acre or less

Tick-trefoil/Beggar's Lice species: *Desmodium canadense, D. floridanum, D. paniculatum, D. perplexum*

Wild Blue Lupine *(Lupinus perennis),* Goat's Rue *(Tephrosia virginiana),* or Butterfly Pea or Spurred Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria mariana* or *Centrosema virginianum)*

Baptisia/Wild Indigo (*Baptisia albescens, B. alba, B. australis, B. perfoliata, B. tinctoria)*

Sensitive Briar (*Mimosa quadrivalvis or Mimosa microphylla*) ← ↑ seeding rate for these: 0.1 to 0.5 lbs. per acre

Problematic cultivars of *Panicum virgatum* (Switchgrass) – "Alamo" (TX), "Kanlow" (OK) – Not recommended - varieties were developed for forage and burn at the same BTU as a low grade coal). "Cave-in-Rock" (IL)," Shawnee", "Colony", "Performer" developed for forage. "Cimarron" (OK), "Timber"(NC), developed for biofuel; are somewhat large, may burn hot and may dominate longleaf/wildlife planting areas (not recommended for CP-36).

These grow thick and tall, can cause longleaf pine seedling mortality, can dominate wildlife habitat planting areas reducing diversity, and can burn dangerously hot, killing most other vegetation. In addition, none of the cultivars above were derived from Southeastern plant materials.

Recommended/preferred alternatives:

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) - "**Carthage**" is a NC ecotype (adapted throughout SC), several other "**Southeastern Regional ecotypes**" are available (ask seed company for these). "Blackwell" (OK) is adapted throughout SC. For Piedmont and Mountains (zone 7): "Blackwell" (OK) or "Shelter" (WV) may do best. "Durham" (NC), "Suther" (NC), and "High Tide" (MD) are cultivars also adapted to zone 7 in SC, but may not yet be commercially available. Stuart (FL), Miami (FL), and Wabasso (FL) are adapted to zones 8 & 9. If SE ecotype seed supplies run low - "NB 28" is a Nebraska ecotype that is smaller in stature similar to SE ecotypes. Seed vendors should provide seed ecotype information. Keep rates low - 1 lb. per acre or less and plant with a mix of other native herbs.

Virginia Wild Rye (*Elymus virginicus*) and/or Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*) - economic cool-season native bunch grasses that establish quickly

Deertongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*)- warm-season native bunch grass that typically establishes quickly

Other native grasses or mixtures of native grasses including Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), nodding/slender Indian grass *(Sorghastrum elliotii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), bushy bluestem (*A. glomeratus*), split beard bluestem (*A. ternarius*), fall or beaked panicum (*Panicum anceps*), purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis)*, muhly grass or sweetgrass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), slender woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*), pineywoods dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*), purple top (*Tridens flavus*). **Plant in the fall or late winter for quicker establishment.**

Reference: Robert. J. Glennon, NATIVE GRASS CULTIVARS AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS FOR THE EASTERN UNITED STATES. USDA NRCS