



Gibraltar Bush Clover

Lespedeza thunbergii 'Gibraltar'

Legume Family (Fabaceae)

Zones: 5-8

Full Sun

Moderate Water

Location: Floral Walk

Gibraltar Bush Clover is a beautiful under-used shrub; more beautiful than the typical *Lespedeza bicolor* which is more common. The flowers of 'Gibraltar' are a deeper rosy-purple color than the species and it starts blooming in late summer. As a member of the pea family, the flowers are shaped like a typical pea or bean blossom.

Although hardy in Utah, it typically dies back to the ground over the winter and must be pruned at ground level. In one season, however, the shrub can reach four to six feet tall. The branches weep gracefully creating a vase shaped appearance. When in bloom, the heavy branches droop nearly to the ground. The arching branches of bluish-green foliage laden with deep rosy-purple flowers are very striking.

Lespedeza prefers full sun. Although sources say it tolerates dry soil, our experience suggests it performs better with moist, well-drained soils; it does not tolerate Utah's brand of dry soils.

Although Gibraltar Bush Clover is not as readily available in the local market, the search for it is well worth the effort!