

Phaseybean (*Macroptilium lathyroides*)

By Stephen H. Futch, David W. Hall and Brent Sellers

Life cycle: herbaceous annual, biennial or short-lived perennial
Plant height: 2 to 3 feet tall, but can become almost vine-like and grow up and out of the top of medium-sized citrus trees when supported by tree limbs

Leaves: alternate, few or no hairs underneath; divided into three leaflets; leaflets broad elliptic, the middle leaflet longer

Stem: ascending to somewhat sprawling, branched

Flowers: red, reddish purple, maroon; clustered at the tip of long stalks; colors often bright

Fruits: long, thin pods, 3 to 4 inches in length, covered with straight appressed hairs

Seeds: oval beans, brownish-gray with black speckles

Growth characteristics: lower parts of the plant become somewhat woody; when shaded, as by citrus trees, or competing with tall grasses, the branches can assume a twining habit

Propagated by: seeds

Origin: tropical America

Distribution: found in pastures, roadsides and groves; found throughout Florida, southern Georgia, Louisiana, Hawaii, Mexico, south into South America, the West Indies and Australia.

Control: Diuron provides good pre-



emergence control, and postemergence control can be achieved with glyphosate or a combination of saflufenacil (Treevix) with glyphosate.

Comments: Introduced into Florida as a forage crop and now found throughout the state; two races are present with one having elliptic leaves and the other lanceolate. A similar forage species with almost black, dark maroon flowers, Siratro (*Macroptilium atropurpureum*), also has escaped and become weedy. Siratro has fuzzy hairs underneath the leaves.

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WHAT'S SHAKIN'

In 2006, Quevado Winery, located in S. Joao da Pesqueira, Portugal, started growing organic olives for olive oil. At harvest time, it uses a trunk shaker mechanical harvester.

The winery's website, www.quevedoportwine.com, states, "We are using a vibration harvester, which shakes the boughs, dislodging the olive fruit in (a) few seconds. It definitively creates some vibration in the trunk, but seems not to affect the health of the olive tree. We have studied the effects of this harvester and we concluded no major damage was caused to the tree on the weeks and months after the harvest."

The video may be seen at <http://quevedoportwine.com/organic-olive-oil-from-quevedo-using-mechanical-vibrating-harvester/>. You may also visit it through the University of Florida mechanical harvesting team's website at <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu>

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