Partridge Pea, *Cassia fasciculata* Michx.¹

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**Classification**

**Common Name:** Partridge Pea  
**Scientific Name:** *Cassia fasciculata* Michx.  
**Family:** Leguminosae (Fabaceae), Bean Family

**Seedling**

The cotyledons are less than 1.0 cm long and about 0.5 cm across, with three prominent midveins and a red area where the cotyledon joins the stem (Figure 1).

![Figure 1. Seedling, Partridge Pea, *Cassia fasciculata* Michx.](image)

**Mature plant**

Partridge Pea is a smooth or hairy annual, 20-100 cm tall, and arises from a tap root (Figure 2). The leaves have a distinct gland midway along the stalk and are compound. Each leaf has 12-36 linear leaflets which are 1-3 cm long and 2-6 mm wide. The sides of the leaflet are usually of different widths. The stipules have whitish veins running parallel with the midvein. The flowers are borne in clusters of 1-6, in the leaf axis. The flowers have yellow petals and 10 unequal stamens. The fruit is a smooth to hairy bean, which is 3-7 cm long and 5-7 mm broad. The seeds are flat, dark brown and about 0.3 cm wide.

**History**

*Cassia* is ancient Greek for an aromatic plant. The Latin name *fasciculata* means clustered and refers to the flower and eventual fruit clusters.

**Habitat**

This weed is found throughout Florida in disturbed sandy soils. The range extends throughout the southeastern United States.

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Partridge Pea, Cassia fasciculata Michx.

Figure 2. Mature plant, Partridge Pea, *Cassia fasciculata* Michx.

**Biology**

The flowers are a source of honey. The seeds and leaves are purgative. Ingesting large amounts of this plant is thought to be harmful, as animals have been poisoned.