



# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

First Legume Society Conference  
*2013: A Legume Odyssey*

9-11 May 2013, Novi Sad, Serbia

First Legume Society Conference  
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# Book of Abstracts

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International Legume Society  
Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia  
2013

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Getting the message out: grow, use, feed and eat legumes

## All legumes are beautiful, but some legumes are more beautiful than others

Aleksandar Mikić

*Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia*

Apart from their prominent roles as food and feed, legumes have numerous forms of non-food uses, with green manure and biofuel as the most widely present in agriculture and industry. Most legume species are easily recognised for the colour of their flowers and it is rather natural there are legumes cultivated especially for ornamental purposes. One of the most renowned decorative legume species is sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus* L.), an annual with great diversity of flower size and petal shape. Breeding sweet pea has a tradition long more than a century, especially in UK, resulting in developing a large number of sweet pea cultivars of diverse flower colour, size and shape and fragrance length and intensity. The largest collection of sweet pea in the world was established and is maintained by Roger Parsons, gaining a status of a UK national collection and comprising about 900 cultivars of sweet pea and around 100 taxa of other *Lathyrus* species. Garden lupin (*Lupinus polyphyllus* Lindl.) is a perennial herbaceous species native to North America. The most significant efforts in breeding garden lupin were made by George Russell from UK, developing an ideotype present in majority of the contemporary cultivars. There are other ornamental lupin species, such as Texas Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis* Hook.), the favourite of many Texans and one of the state flowers of Texas. Among the woody perennial legumes, grown as ornamentals, it is noteworthy to mention Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda* (Willd.) DC.), a liana species, as well as deciduous trees, such as Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum* L.), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* L.), golden-chaintree (*Laburnum × watereri* (G. Kirchn.) Dippel) and Pagoda Tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum* (L.) Schott).

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In the rich world of global agriculture, diverse legumes can play key roles to develop environment-friendly production, supplying humans and animals with the products of high nutritional value.

The Legume Society was initiated in 2011 with two primary missions. One of them was to treasure the rich legume research tradition of the European Association for Grain Legume Research (AEP), with emphasis on carrying out its the triennial legume-devoted conferences. Another one is to fulfill a long-term strategy of linking together the research on all legumes worldwide, from grain and forage legumes pharmaceutical and ornamental ones and from the Old World to the Americas.

We do anticipate that the First Legume Society Conference will be a unique and genuine contribution to our common goals: to promote the legume research and all its benefits into all spheres of the society, linking science with stakeholders and decision-makers, and to demonstrate how an efficient, useful and firm network of the legume researchers of the world is possible and sustainable.

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