Summary

Different methods for breaking the dormancy of *Pueraria phaseoloides* seeds were evaluated: (1) thermal scarification in hot water at 80 and 90 °C; (2) chemical scarification in sulfuric acid; and (3) scarification with potassium nitrate. Speed and percentage of germination at 25 °C and with 12 h of light were measured every 15 days. Immersion of seed in hot water was not a satisfactory method for breaking dormancy, but it did increase evaluated parameters. Water temperature affected seed germination more than

duration of immersion. The relationship between duration of seed immersion in sulfuric acid and seed germination was quadratic for speed and percentage of germination. Immersion for 20 min in sulfuric acid resulted in maximum germination (93.7%) and speed of germination (54.95) of *P. phaseoloides* seed. Comparable to the hot-water treatment, potassium nitrate did not affect dormancy of *P. phaseoloides* seed significantly, although increases were observed in experimental parameters under study.