

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Also known as Yellow Pea or Canadian Spring Pea. Winter-kills if planted in fall. Excellent spring cover crop. Plant early for lush growth; fast-growing varieties are available. Inoculate the seed with appropriate Rhizobium spp.; cross inoculates vetch. Mixes well with upright cover crop species due to its vining growth habit. Lower biomass and total N fixation compared to overwintered peas and other fall-planted legumes.

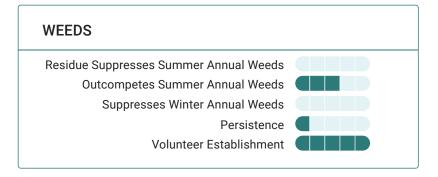


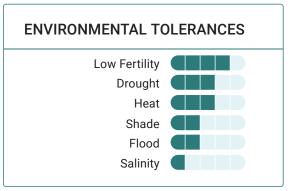


Pea, Spring - Brown [2020]

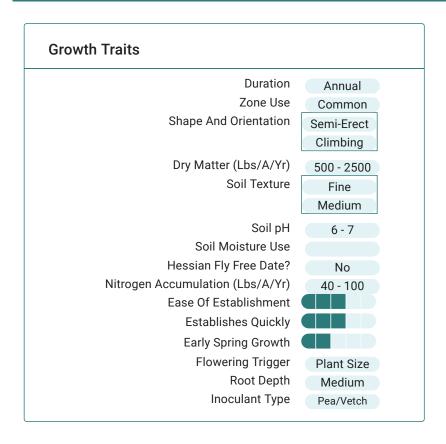
Pea, Spring - Brown [2020]

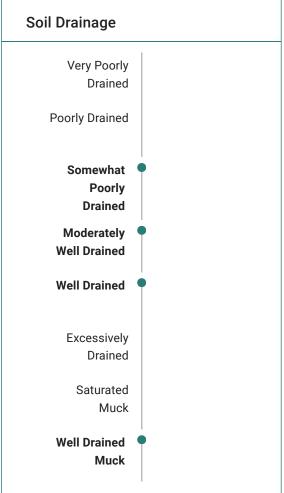
Growing Window Short Penetrates Plow Pan Nitrogen Scavenging Reduces Surface Compaction Improve Soil Organic Matter Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Forage Harvest Value Nitrogen Fixation

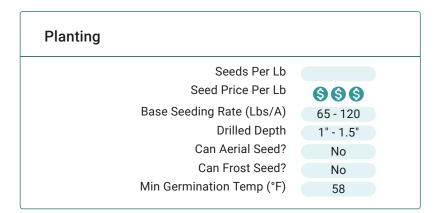


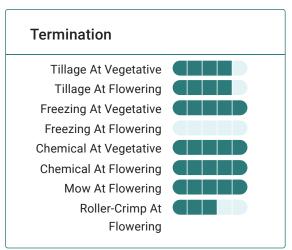




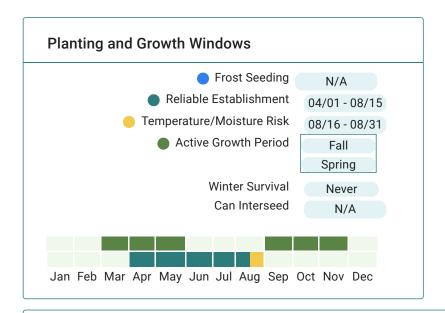












Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Season length, habit vary by cultivar. Mixes well with grains when grown for forage. Bloat potential that is easily managed. Seed vigor highly variable. For grazing purposes, restrict to 30% of total ration or mixing with a grass is recommended.

Weeds: Late planting increases heaving. Weak plant with low volunteer seed survivability.

Forage and Grazing: Good cool season component for grazing mixes.

Disease: Susceptible to sclerotinia in the East.

Goals: Best mixed with cereals to prevent lodging.

Taxonomy: forage pea would be better common name - actual garden peas have been bred for unpigmented seed coats and high sugar, which reduces germination. There are both grain type and forage types of spring field peas.

Nematodes: Some cultivars, nematode resistant. Poor host for soybean cyst nematode. Host for root knot nematode, Penetrans Root-Lesion Nematode and sugarbeet cyst nematode.

Pollinators: Self-pollinated so not particularly useful for pollinators compared to other legumes

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d)





References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures, University of Vermont Extension