

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Also known as forage soybean. Good N-fixation, biomass, and forage potential. Low reseeding and weed risk. Do not use in rotations where soybeans are grown as a cash crop to decrease disease, insect, and nematode buildup. Inoculate. Many varieties are available; use late-maturing or forage cultivars for high biomass. Its bushy growth habit mixes better with short grasses like foxtail millet. Attractive to deer so not recommended for areas with high deer pressure. Similar to cowpea for cover crop use. Compared to cowpea: more tolerant of cool weather, wet soils; less tolerant of drought, pests, poor soil fertility.







Soybeans - Ackroyd [2020]

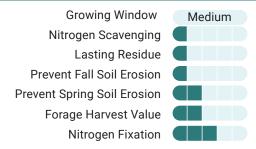


Soybeans - Mirsky Lab [2020]



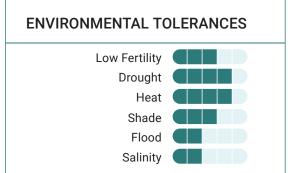
Soybeans - Mirsky Lab [2020]

GOALS



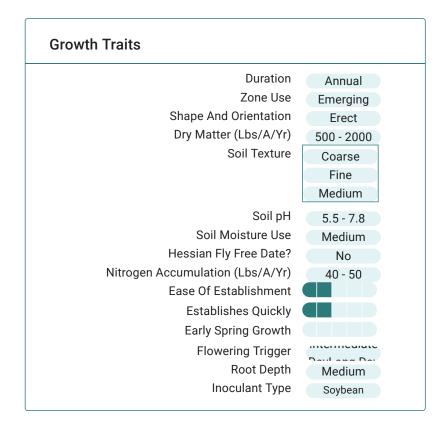
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

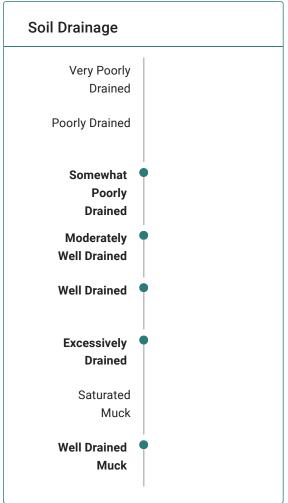
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

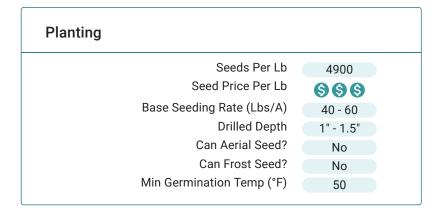


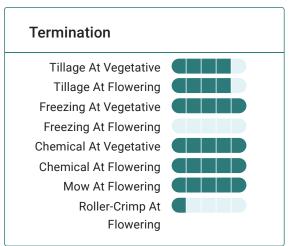


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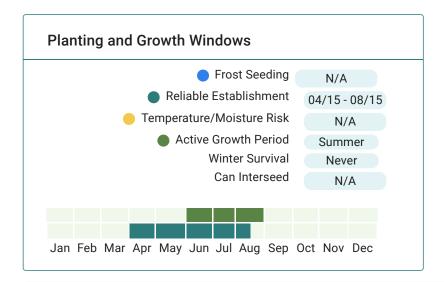








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Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Good seed value if a short season cultivar is used and the crop is managed properly to obtain decent quality seed. Best forage value at R6/R7. For grazing purposes, restrict to 30% of total ration or mixing with a grass is recommended.

Forage and Grazing: Tough to ensile; not a good emergency forage as this one comes with a learning curve.

Weeds: Weak plant with low volunteer seed survivability. The farther north, the less competitive against summer annual weeds.

Pollinators: Attractiveness to bees varies widely based on flower color and crop variety.

Nematodes: Host plant for soybean cyst nematode.

Insects: Serve as host for various stinkbug species but will also attract their parasitoids

References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures, University of Vermont Extension

<u>UNH Researchers Find Forage Radish is the Cream of Cover Crops</u>, University of New Hampshire Ag Experiment Station Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide), University of Massachusetts Extension