

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Vining cool-season annual. Reliable and widely used. Very winter-hardy. Little fall growth, but fast, vining spring growth makes it excellent for N fixation, biomass. Maturity can vary by variety, with 'Purple Bounty' maturing early. Residues release N fast. Good forage. Host to some problem nematodes. Small grain producers should use caution because of its tendency to volunteer and climb subsequent small grains (i.e. it can reduce yield, foul harvest equipment, and contaminate harvested grain). Hard seed can be nullified by scarification prior to planting. Mixes especially well with a rye cover crop; climbs small grain in mixes. Inoculate the seed with appropriate Rhizobium spp.; cross inoculates peas.





Vetch, Hairy - Ackroyd [2020]

Vetch, Hairy - Mirsky Lab [2020]

GOALS

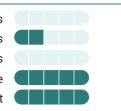


Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

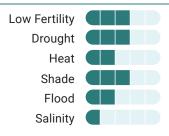


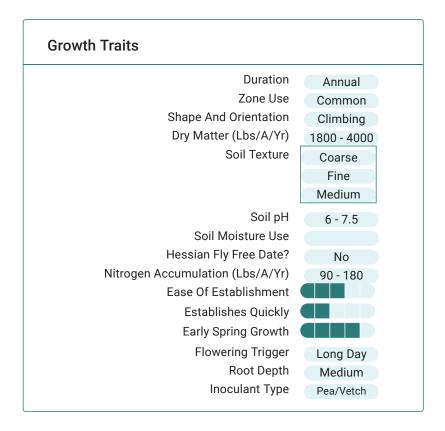
WEEDS

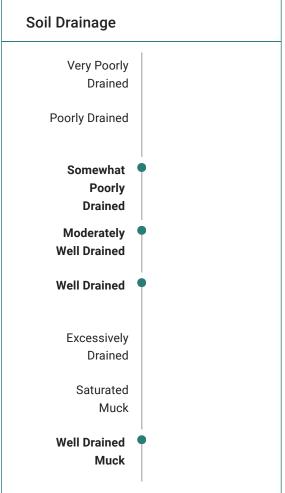
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

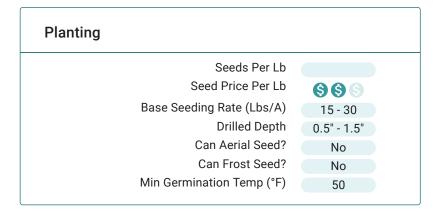


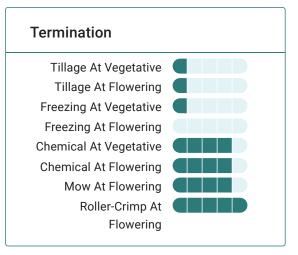
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



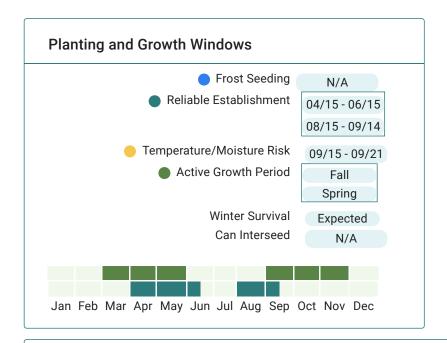












Extended Comments

Planting: Hairy vetch is rarely planted in the spring due to white mold concerns.

Forage and Grazing: Nobody can explain cause of hairy vetch toxicosis, which kills livestock. Not recommended for grazing/forage, but it's used elsewhere as part of a mix (<15%). Dilution may solve that issue, but it depends on what level of risk you're willing to take. Particularly palatable to voles.

Goals: Must be planted by the end of the standard planting window to suppress winter annual weeds in hardiness zone 5 and cooler.

Nematodes: Supports reproduction of some root-knot nematode species/races.

Pollinators: Very attractive to bumblebees. Delay termination until at least 30-50% bloom to maximize value to pollinators.

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

2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial, University of Vermont Extension

2014 Summer Cover Crop Mix, University of Vermont Extension

2014 Early Fall Cover Crop Trial, University of Vermont Extension

<u>Under Cover – Integrating Cover Crops into Silage Corn Systems</u>, University of Vermont Extension

UNH Researchers Find Forage Radish is the Cream of Cover Crops, University of New Hampshire Ag Experiment Station

Cover Cropping for Success, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops for Home Gardens, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

<u>Using Green Manures</u>, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Selected Green Manures and Cover Crops for Maine, University of Maine

Cover Crops - What a Difference a Few Weeks Makes, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

<u>Spring Management of Overwintering Cover Crops – Don't Wait!</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Hairy Vetch, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Late Summer Legumes, Cornell University Cooperative Extension