

# **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.

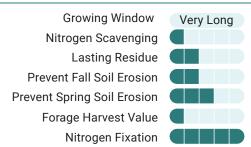




Vetch, Hairy - Ackroyd [2020]

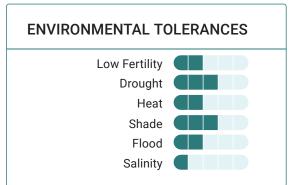
Vetch, Hairy - Mirsky Lab [2020]

# **GOALS**

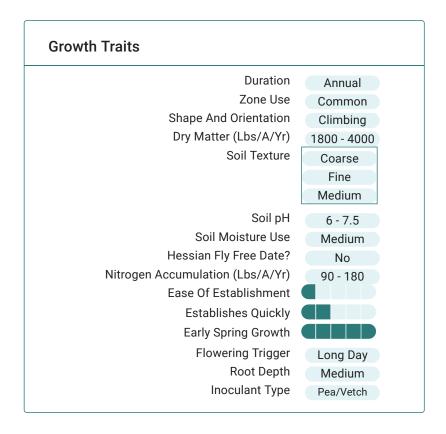


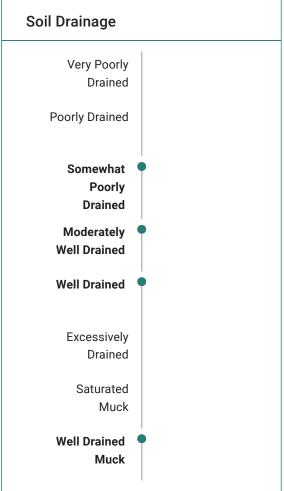
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

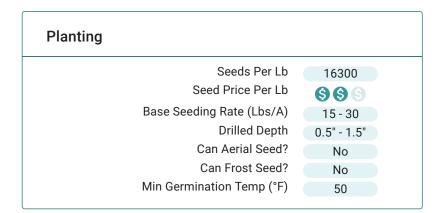
# **WEEDS** Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

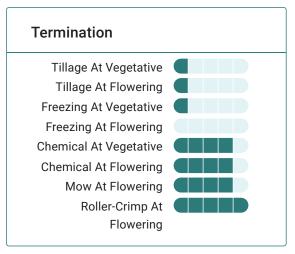




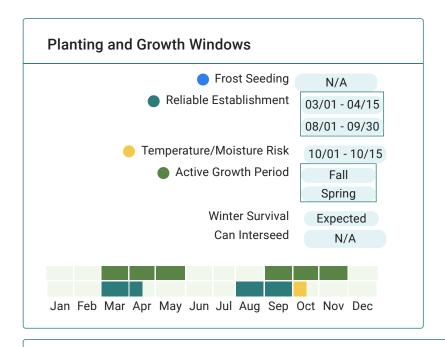












### **Extended Comments**

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

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

Forage and Grazing: Nobody can explain cause of hairy vetch toxicosis, which kills livestock. I don't recommend it to ON farmers 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 recommend to producers. 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.

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

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



### References & Resources

Planting Flowers for Bees in Connecticut, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Use of Cover Crops and Green Manures to Attract Beneficial Insects, University of Connecticut Integrated Pest

Management Program

Multiple Purpose Cover Crops, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut

**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

Conservation Cover for Pollinators, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

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

**Cover Crops**, University of Massachusetts Extension

Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide), University of Massachusetts Extension

Choosing Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

**Summer Cover Crops**, University of Massachusetts Extension

Late Season Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

Cover Crops, Hairy Vetch, University of Massachusetts Extension

Plant Cover Crops, University of Maryland Extension

**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

Spring Management of Overwintering Cover Crops - Don't Wait!, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Hairy Vetch, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Late Summer Legumes, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Hairy Vetch as a Cover Crop, Penn State Extension

**Cover Crops for Conservation Tillage Systems**, Penn State Extension

Suppressing Weeds Using Cover Crops in Pennsylvania, Penn State Extension

Using Flowering Cover Crops for Native Pollinating Bee Conservation, Penn State Extension

Special Cover Crop Control Considerations, Penn State Extension

Cover Crop Rollers for Northeastern Grain Production, Penn State Extension