

## PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

### **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

Upright summer annual. Black oilseed varieties are most commonly grown for cover crops. Good heat and drought tolerance once established. Sunflower blooms are attractive to people, pollinators, and wildlife. Deep branched taproot, good for pulling up nutrients (but not necessarily subsoiling). Middling weed suppressor. Low seeding rate means low cost. Adaptable in mixes; it may grow tall in a tall mix, short in a short mix.









Sunflower - Ackroyd [2020]

Sunflower - Ackrovd [2020]

Sunflower - Salon [2020]

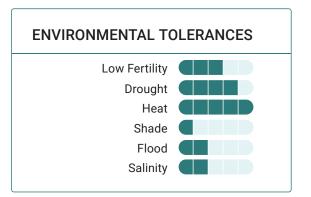
Sunflower - Salon [2020]

# **GOALS**

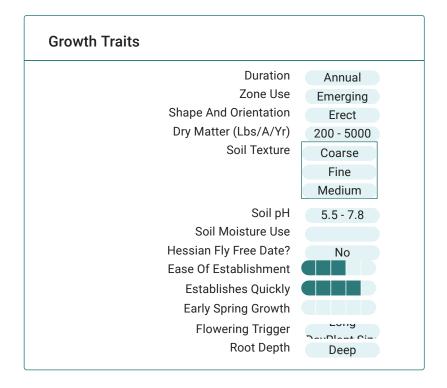
**Growing Window** Medium Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Forage Harvest Value

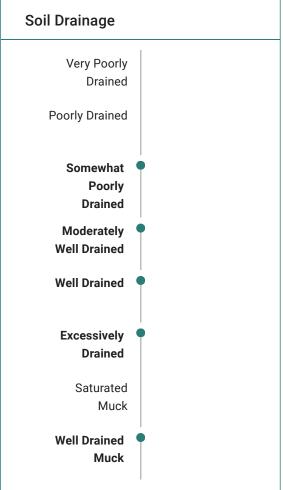
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

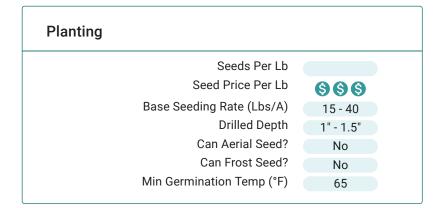
# **WEEDS** Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

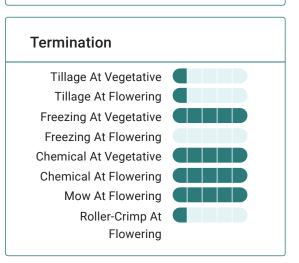


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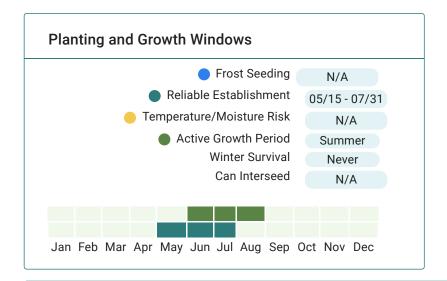








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# **Extended Comments**

**Basic Agronomics:** Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation.

Insects: Serve as host for BMSB but could be beneficial if used as a trap crop

Nematodes: Minor host for root-lesion nematodes that attack corn and wheat (e.g. P. neglectus).

**Pollinators:** Be wary of insecticide-treated seeds if value to pollinators is of interest. Hollow stems left as residue provide pollinator nest sites.

## References & Resources

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