#### LEGUME

Cowpea Vigna unguiculata

This data is based on expert opinion.



Plant Hardiness Zone 7 Dataset

View Photos

#### COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Excellent summer legume. Needs heat to grow well. Very heat and drought tolerant once established, deep taproot, tolerates low fertility. Some shade tolerance. Grows fast, good biomass and forage producer, high N fixation potential, good weed suppressor. Extrafloral nectaries key for beneficial insects. Some suppression for problem nematodes. Low reseeding and weed risk. Inoculate; cross-inoculates with peanut, sunn hemp. Many varieties available: use forage or cover crop cultivars, with bush types for short mixes, vine- or runner- types for tall mixes.











#### **GOALS**

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

Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Topsoil Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation Supports Mycorrhizae **Good Grazing** 

Pollinator Food

#### **WEEDS**

Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES**

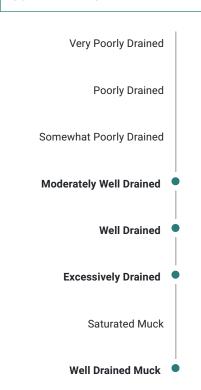
Winter Survival Never Low Fertility Drought Heat



### **BASIC AGRONOMICS**

### **SOIL DRAINAGE**

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Semi-Erect
	Climbing
Active Growth Period	Summer
C:N	
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	2500 - 4500
Soil Texture	Fine
	Medium
	Coarse
Soil PH	6 - 8
Soil Moisture Use	Medium
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Accumulation (Lbs/A/Yr)	70 - 150



## **GROWTH**

Nitrogen

### **PLANTING**

Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	Plant Size
Root Architecture	Тар
Root Depth	Medium
Inoculant Type	Cowpea
	Lespedeza

Seeds Per Lb	3600
Seed Price Per Lb	888
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	50 - 90
Drilled Depth	1" - 1.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	58

# **TERMINATION**

# PLANTING DATES

Tillage At Vegetative	
Tillage At Flowering	
Freezing At Vegetative	
Freezing At Flowering	
Chemical At Vegetative	

Frost Seeding N/A

Reliable Establishment 06/01 - 07/15

Temperature/Moisture Risk N/A

Can Interseed N/A

Chemical At Flowering

Mow At Flowering

Roller-Crimp At Flowering