



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



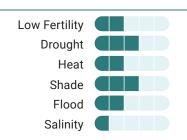
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food



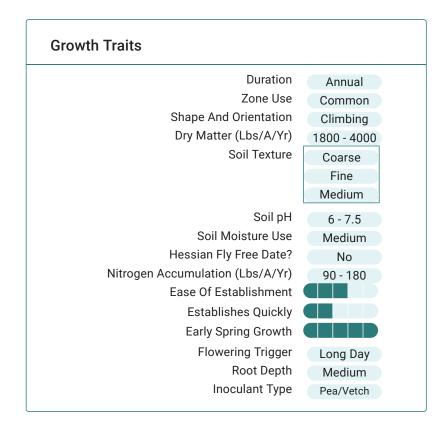
WEEDS

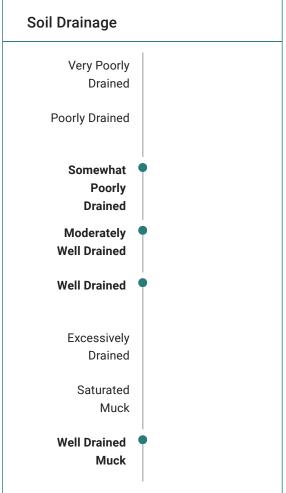


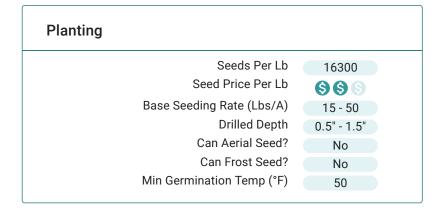
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

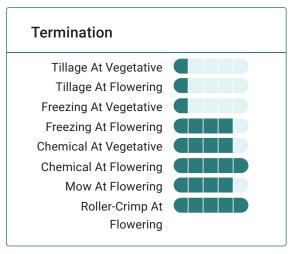




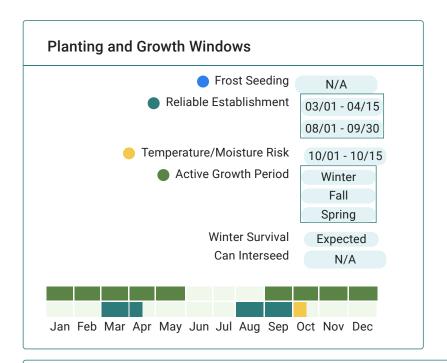












Extended Comments

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d). Roller crimping is most effective when first pods appear.

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.

Weeds: Good for suppressing winter annual weeds if planted early but this increases risk of winter-kill; when planted at standard timing, slow to suppress winter annuals but it does, eventually.

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

Fall Cover Crops, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

Conservation Cover for Pollinators, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops - Benefits, Selection, and Use, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension

<u>UNH Researchers Find Forage Radish is the Cream of Cover Crops</u>, 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

<u>Choosing Cover Crops</u>, University of Massachusetts Extension

Summer Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

<u>Late Season Cover Crops</u>, 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

Using Green Manures, 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

<u>Late Summer Legumes</u>, 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

<u>Using Flowering Cover Crops for Native Pollinating Bee Conservation</u>, Penn State Extension

<u>Special Cover Crop Control Considerations</u>, Penn State Extension

Cover Crop Rollers for Northeastern Grain Production, Penn State Extension