

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Tall tropical legume. Plant in early summer; does not tolerate cool soils. Good forage potential in areas with sufficient heat. Will tolerate high mowing (> 18"). Large N fixation potential. Effectively suppresses root-knot nematodes. Low weed risk, but with enough time can set viable seed. Becomes stemmy as it matures. Inoculate seed; cross-inoculates with cowpea. Certain cultivars contain alkaloids which are poisonous to livestock; check before feeding to animals. Spindly growth habit with narrow leaves seems to make it a better choice for mixes than in monoculture. Mix with sorghum-sudangrass, pearl millet, and sunflower for a diverse warm season mixture.





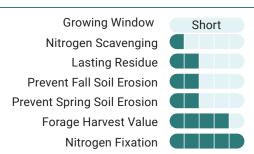


Sunn Hemp - Larson [2020]

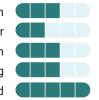
Sunn Hemp - Ackroyd [2020]

Sunn Hemp - Ackroyd [2020]

GOALS



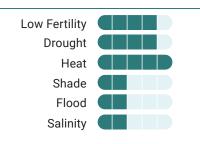
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food



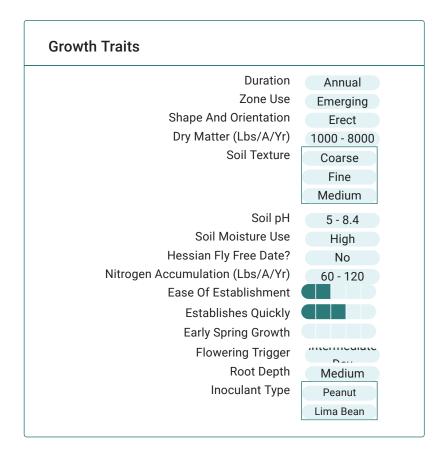
WEEDS

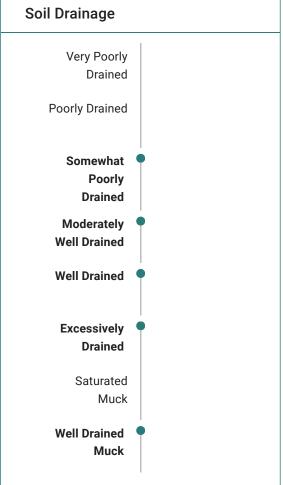
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

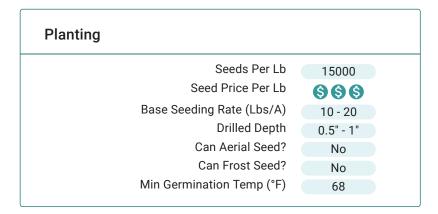
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

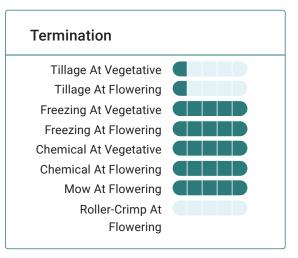


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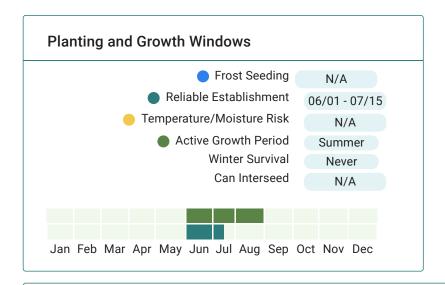








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Extended Comments

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

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Seeds are toxic to livestock. Bloat potential that is easily managed. For grazing purposes, restrict to 30% of total ration or mixing with a grass is recommended.

Weeds: Sunn hemp does not set seed in cold regions. Mature sunn hemp residue can be a problem. Innoculation advised.

References & Resources

<u>Cover Crop Research at the University of Rhode Island</u>, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension <u>Summer Cover Crops</u>, Penn State Extension