

Hairy Vetch



Benefits

- ◆ Attracts Beneficial Insects
- ◆ Excellent topsoil conditioner
- ◆ Erosion Control
- ◆ Excellent Weed Suppressor
- ◆ P & K Scavenger
- ◆ Excellent High Quality Forage
- ◆ Can Produce Significant amounts of Nitrogen
- ◆ Tolerates lower fertility

Seeding Date, Methods & Rate

Drilled: 15-20# per acre

Broadcast: 17-25# per acre

Aerial: 18-25# per acre

August-September. Needs 5-6 weeks of good growth before winter for best results. Vetch can be no tilled or drilled 1/2 to 1 1/2 inch depth. Vetch can be broadcast into wilting beans. Plant early- vetch is slow to establish, with a minimum of 45 days before a killing frost. For the best nitrogen production, inoculate with vetch inoculant. Prefers pH of 4.9 to 8.2 and well-drained soils.

Burndown

Relatively easy to kill. Close mowing or disc should take care of it in the Spring, poor control with glyphosate alone. Use glyphosate + 2,4-D, or Atrazine for control. Once vetch reaches 50% bloom, it can be killed by

Expectations

Hairy Vetch is a vigorous annual legume primarily used as a nitrogen-fixing cover crop. For Hairy Vetch to produce significant Nitrogen it needs to be established in adequate time to have good growth before going dormant in winter. Even if it seems to start slow, the roots continue to grow through the winter and spring growth is exponential. If it reaches bloom stage, Hairy Vetch can produce 90-200 lbs of N with about half being available to the following cash crop. Hairy vetch can improve root zone water recharge over winter by reducing runoff and allowing more water to penetrate the soil profile through macropores created by the crop residue. Its high N production, vigorous growth, tolerance of diverse soil conditions, low fertility need and winter hardiness make hairy vetch the most widely used of winter annual legumes. One challenge with using Hairy Vetch is that it contains significant amounts of hard seed that will most likely germinate in future years. It does well as a monoculture or in mixes ahead of corn. Strip till or no-till into rolled vetch provides a good seed bed with excellent weed suppression and moisture retention. Vetch works well with rye or triticale for a ground cover/mulch. Vetch is considered a succulent and therefore does not add significant amounts of organic to the soil. Decomposes relatively quickly due to the high nitrogen content. Hairy vetch produces compounds that inhibit weeds. Not recommended when pest nematodes are present.

Contact Barbara Barten at Gutwein Seed Services for a Quote: 219-866-0555 or barb@gss4ag.com