

Cowpeas



Benefits

- ◆ Increases Soil Nitrogen
- ◆ Increases Phosphorus availability in the soil
- ◆ Suppress Weeds
- ◆ Builds Soil Quality
- ◆ Provides Erosion Control
- ◆ Attracts Beneficial Insects
- ◆ Excellent for Forage
- ◆ Adds Organic Matter

Seeding Date, Methods & Rate

Drill cowpeas 60-120# per acre, 1-2 inches deep in 7, 15, or 30 inch rows.

Cowpeas require the same soil conditions as soy beans to germinate: warm soils of 65 degrees, and moist, well drained conditions. Broadcasting does not work well unless they can be harrowed in. Cowpeas cannot tolerate waterlogged soils, but can tolerate drought and low soil fertility. For nitrogen production, inoculate with cowpea inoculant. Plant 3/4-1 inch deep.

Burndown

Cowpeas do not kill with rolling or mowing and must be incorporated or sprayed. Winterkills.

Expectations

Cowpeas are used as a summer annual in the Midwest. Cowpeas are actually a bean and therefore should be used for summer cover crops rather than the traditional early spring pea planting time. Once they are established, cowpeas thrive in hot conditions, tolerating heat, drought, low fertility, shade, and a wide variety of soil conditions. If there is a dry summer, cowpeas should be planted by 4th week of July. Inoculating cowpeas is vital for success. When a good stand is established and growing, cowpeas can produce 70-150# nitrogen/acre. Cowpeas have a tap root that can penetrate 8 feet in 8 weeks.

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