

VETCH

Hairy



Background:

Hairy Vetch is an annual vining crop with clusters of purple blossoms, that grows to be about 2–3 feet tall. Vetch is a legume that is commonly grown as a forage crop, cover crop, fodder crop, & green manure. Hairy Vetch grows in sandy, clay, and loam soils and is much more hardy and cold tolerant than ‘common’ Vetch.

Vetch is best if kept rotationally grazed due to its moderate bloat potential. Vetch also provides high amounts of nitrogen and mulch to any potential summer crops. Vetch grows best when inoculated (Rhizobium bacteria) since it is a legume.

Benefits:

Vetch is commonly used in no-till farming because of its winter hardiness and the fact that it can fix as much as 200 lbs per acre of atmospheric nitrogen. About 3.5 percent of the dry matter of Hairy Vetch is nitrogen, so a substantial amount of nitrogen is available in the forage and the roots when turned under prior to planting a summer crop. Even Vetch that has been grazed provides high amounts of nitrogen to the soil when turned over for a new summer crop.

Vetch also aids in preserving moisture and grows to help keep weeds from sprouting.

Planting:

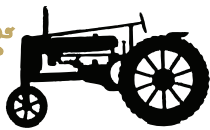
Soil Preparation: Hairy Vetch grows best in sandy, loam, or clay soils with a pH between 5.0–7.5. This variety of Vetch is best when planted in early–mid fall.

Seed Depth: 0.25”–.05”

Seed Rate: Broadcast 20–25 lbs per acre

Production Rate: 2000–4000 lbs per acre

The Rhizobium bacteria (inoculant) is available for purchase at Tack & Ag.



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