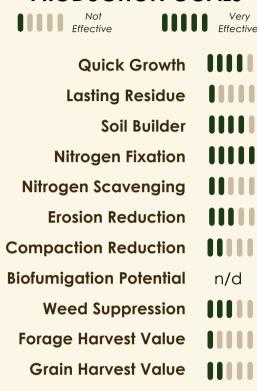
HAIRY VETCH

VICIA VILLOSA - WINTER ANNUAL LEGUME



PRODUCTION GOALS



Hairy vetch displays a prostrate climbing growth habit with a medium depth tap root. It can be an annual or biennial. Hairy vetch has blue-purple flowers that attract insects and pollinators, if permitted to go to flowering stage. Known for its winter hardiness, hairy vetch is more cold tolerant than common vetch.

Compared to other legumes, hairy vetch can fix the highest quantity of nitrogen.

TOLERANCES

Flood
Heat
Drought
Shade
Low Fertility
Salinity

Optimal pH

6.0 - 7.5

SOIL DRAINAGE CLASS

Very Well
Well
Moderately Well
Somewhat Poor
Poorly
Very Poorly

AREA & ADAPTABILITY

Hairy vetch is suitable for all regions of British Columbia. It is very cold tolerant allowing for overwintering in many areas of the province.

Winter Hardiness Zone - 4-9

Seeding Considerations

Rate Drilled	Rate Broadcast	Depth	Frost Seeding	Minimum Germination Temperature	Seeds #
15-30 lbs/ac	25-40 lbs/ac	0.5-1 in	No	14°C	5400 /lb
(17-34 kg/ha)	(28-45 kg/ha)	(1-2.5 cm)		(58°F)	(12,000 /kg)

Germination is reduced in dry conditions. Hairy vetch should be seeded 30-45 days before the first killing frost for winter management; recommended to be in a seed mix (e.g. with fall rye) for fall seeding. Can be seeded in early spring for summer growth or in July if the goal is to terminate before winter. Use a pea or vetch inoculant at planting to ensure rhizobia development.

Management Considerations

Hairy vetch is a competitive cover crop. It is slow to start growing, and provides little weed control when young, but once established becomes vigorous with excellent weed suppression.

It can volunteer if allowed to go to seed, so for the least risk of volunteer and highest nitrogen availability terminate at the early bud stage. If used in an annual forage silage crop, early harvest should be considered to ensure hairy vetch does not bind in harvest equipment.

There can be livestock poisoning risks if grazing a pure hairy vetch stand that has set seed. If using for grazing be sure to include multiple species and graze before maturity.

Inter-seeding Potential
Volunteer Establishment
Nitrogen Concentration



Dry Matter Yield

900 - 5000 lbs/acre 1008 - 5600 kg/ha

Nitrogen Contribution

90 - 200 lbs/acre

100.8 - 224 kg/ha

Termination

Hairy vetch can be terminated through tillage, mowing or in combination. Terminate during early flower to recognize value of crop as a pollinator/beneficial insect attractant. A roller crimper can be used when it is in flower. Glyphosate on its own is not always effective. For maximum nitrogen availability terminate at the early bud stage.

References

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- U.S. Department of Agriculture. (n.d.). Pacific Northwest Cover Crop Selection Tool.

Disclaimer



The information contained in this document is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge without guarantee or warranty of its correctness or completeness. The content is intended to be a general guideline, but the performance of the cover crop(s) may differ from what is described in the document depending on environment and farm operation and may vary between years. The Government of British Columbia and its directors, agents, employees, or contractors will not be liable for any claims, damages, or losses of any kind whatsoever arising out of the use of, or reliance upon, this information.



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