

# HAIRY VETCH

VICIA VILLOSA - WINTER ANNUAL LEGUME



## PRODUCTION GOALS



Not Effective



Very Effective

Quick Growth	
Lasting Residue	
Soil Builder	
Nitrogen Fixation	
Nitrogen Scavenging	
Erosion Reduction	
Compaction Reduction	
Biofumigation Potential	n/d
Weed Suppression	
Forage Harvest Value	
Grain Harvest Value	

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 (17-34 kg/ha)	25-40 lbs/ac (28-45 kg/ha)	0.5-1 in (1-2.5 cm)	No	14°C (58°F)	5400 /lb (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** 3.0 - 4.9%

### 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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## Disclaimer

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