



Hairy Vetch “VNS”

A vining, high biomass producing winter annual legume. If left to grow late in the spring (at least 50% bloom), it will fix significant amounts of nitrogen. Good for rolling as a weed-suppressing mat before planting a summer annual nitrogen feeder like corn or sorghum. Fairly winter hardy, but will survive better in combination with a winter annual small grain, which can provide an insulating buffer.

Vetch works well planted with a small grain like rye, since the grass can provide structural support as well as shelter to the vining legume, and more effective fiber if the vetch is to be fed as a forage.

Soil Adaptation

Drought – Good drought tolerance.

pH Range –6.0 to 7.0

Cutting Management

Harvest later than wheat. Maximum vetch kill when crop is in full bloom. If the vetch is strictly a cover crop, can be plowed under or killed with herbicides or a roller-crimper in a no-till setting, to form a weed suppressing mat. Can be used as a forage as well as a cover crop, but is not as palatable as many other legumes. High crude protein content and fiber.

****Inoculate with N-Dure Pea-Vetch Inoculant for best nitrogen fixation.**

At A Glance

- Vining legume cover crop and forage
- Flowers attractive to pollinators and beneficial insects
- As a cover crop, excellent weed suppression and nitrogen production for no-till corn and other summer crops
- Best placed in mixes; vining nature complements grasses and small grains

Best Uses

Cover crop, grazing, haylage, baleage

Establishment

Planting Dates: Up to barley planting dates in fall, dormant seeded, or as soon as ground can be worked in spring (less production and nitrogen fixation)

Seeding Rate: 20-30 lbs/A

Seeding Depth: 1/4” - 3/4”

Cool Season Annual



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High Energy Forages and Soil Building Cover Crops