



HAIRY VETCH

Producers may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do they know the benefits of each species? Each month a different cover crop species will be highlighted to provide producers with information needed to successfully grow cover crops or alternative forages on their operation.

AT A GLANCE

- A member of the legume family, Hairy Vetch is tolerant of a variety of soil conditions and is winter hardy.
- Should be planted between April and September; decomposes quickly after termination
- Has a variety of soil health benefits including increased nitrogen and phosphorus

PLANTING DETAILS

- Seeds/lb: 12,000-16,000
- Planting depth: ½-1 ½”
- Planting dates:
 - N of I-94: April 15-September 1
 - S of I-94: April 1-September 15
- Rate per acre: 15-23 lbs/acre
- Min germination temp: 60F

ABOUT HAIRY VETCH

- A member of the legume family
- It is tolerant of a variety of soil conditions including low fertility environments
- Winter hardy cover crop options
- Offers a variety of soil health benefits

BENEFITS

Quick Decomposition

Hairy vetch decomposes quickly after termination.

Low C:N ratio allows for quick plant decay and capture of organic material and nutrients.

Soil Health

Produces up to 200 lbs of nitrogen, and enhances soil organic matter.

Scavenges phosphorus for greater availability. Heavy mulch layer provides excellent weed suppression and prevents erosion.



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