



## SPRING PEAS

You may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do you know the benefits of each species? Each month we'll highlight a different cover crop species to provide you with the information needed to successfully grow covers or alternative forages on your operation.

### AT A GLANCE

- Provides up to 80lbs of Nitrogen
- High protein content
- Perfect spring cover crop, green manure crop, and increases organic matter content

### PLANTING DETAILS

- Spring peas should be planted after April 15th when the ground reaches suitable temperatures.
- Seeding rates vary depending on the seeding methods but should be within the 25 - 50lbs an acre range with broadcast seeding on the higher side at 45+ lbs an acre. 2,000-3,500 seeds/lb.
- When drilled, spring peas should be seeded at a depth of one to two inches.

### GROWING CONDITIONS

- Commonly used as a cover crop and alternative forage.
- Seeded when the top one inch of the soil reaches 40 degrees or frost seeded, making it perfect for spring cover cropping.
- These peas will outgrow winter peas that are spring planted and provide up to 80lbs of Nitrogen when harvested midseason

### BENEFITS

#### Green Manure Crop

Make for a great green manure crop due to the quick breakdown time of residue once stems are cut.

#### Protein Content and Digestibility

When used as a forage spring pea will provide high protein content and should be paired with other crop species to provide the animal with fiber and digestible energy.

#### Cover Crop and Organic Matter

Small grains including barley, rye, triticale, oats, and wheat are excellent partners for Spring Pea cover cropping and will increase organic matter content.



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