

Flax VNS

Key Features

Flax is a broadleaf with very small, narrow leaves that are less than an inch long. Stems are branched near the base of the plant, with plants reaching 30 to 36 inches in height. The multiple stems or branches of a flax plant are slender and flexible, dividing at their tips into inflorescences bearing attractive blue flowers. Flowers are mostly self-pollinated, with some cross pollination by insects.

Application

Cover Crop
Pollinator

Planting Time

Spring

Establishment

Flax should be planted in the spring. Although late frosts may occur after flax emergence, they are unlikely to damage flax. North Dakota researchers report that flax seedlings can survive temperatures down to 28°F upon emergence, and can tolerate the low 20s after they reach the two leaf stage.

Management Keys

Practices for flax are similar to that of spring oats. It is adapted to soils that are good for wheat or oats, but is not suited to poorly drained soils. Flax should not be grown in the same field every year, but instead should be rotated with other crops to reduce disease potential and improve yields.



Seeding Rate

Drilled	20-25#
In Cover Crop Mix	2-5#

Seeding Depth

½ to 1"

Characteristics

Nutrient Scavenging	4
Nutrient Release rate	3
Compaction	2

Scale 1-5 (1=Poor, 5=Excellent)

