

WOOLLYPOD Vetch

Key Features

Woollypod Vetch is an introduced, self-seeding, cool season annual legume similar in appearance to other annual and perennial vetches. The color of the flowers is pinkish-purple compared with the reddish-purple of purple vetch. The growth form of Woollypod Vetch is semi-prostrate with trailing stems up to three feet long. It will climb on any available support, such as brush or the stiff stems of grass and grain.

Woollypod vetch may be used as a cover crop, for forage, and as green manure seeding. Because it matures relatively early and reseeds well, Woollypod Vetch can be used where a perpetuating annual cover is desired. Woollypod Vetch is high in protein and has a high digestibility level that is comparable to clover and other legume pastures.

Application

Cover Crop
Forage
Pollinator

Planting Time

Fall

Establishment

Plant 3-6 weeks prior to the average first killing frost
Depth: ½-1½"
Drill or broadcast followed by a light disking.

Management Keys

Careful grazing management is critical for successful production of Woollypod Vetch. It is a slow winter grower, especially in the colder tablelands areas, and regrowth can be poor if it is grazed before branching occurs. However, it recovers vigorously if grazed after branching and before growth becomes tall and rank. Grazing young seedlings can kill the plant.

As cattle tend to avoid young plants, light grazing of mixed pastures by cattle should result in little damage. When attempting to build up a seed reserve, allow stock to graze only lightly from flowering onwards. If a substantial seed bank is built up in the first year, the plant can regenerate in later years from residual hard seed, even during successive years of drought in which little new seed is formed.

Vetch is more persistent where cattle rather than sheep are grazing. It is also more persistent under extensive or large-area grazing systems rather than under intensive systems with high stocking rates.



Seeding Rates

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Drilled | 15-20# |
| Precision Planting | 10-15# |
| Broadcast | 25-35# |
| Aerial | 25-35# |

Attributes

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| N Fixation | 5 |
| Nutrient Scavenging | 3 |
| Nutrient Release | 5 |
| Wind Erosion | 3 |
| Water Erosion | 3 |

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

