

COMMON Vetch

Key Features

Vetch is familiarly divided into Common and Hairy Vetch. Common Vetch is less winter-hardy than Hairy Vetch. Both are significant producers of nitrogen, especially for crops planted late in the spring, making vetch attractive to organic growers. Another trait of vetch is that it lowers the ratio of carbon to nitrogen in mixes with cereal grains. This quickens the process of decomposition.

Horses thrive well on common vetch, even better than on clover and rye grass; the same applies to fattening cattle, which feed faster on vetch than on most grasses or other edible plants.

Common Vetch is less winter hardy than Hairy Vetch and produces less biomass and forage. It is still a good option for cover cropping and forage for cattle with good weed suppression. A great high nitrogen-fixing legume for green manure, forage grazing, wildlife and as a pollinator attractant.

Application

Cover Crop
Forage
Pollinator

Planting Time

Fall

Establishment

Plant 3-6 weeks prior to the average first killing frost.
Depth: 1/2-1 1/2"
Drill or broadcast followed by a light disking.

Management Keys

As an annual legume, common vetch is likely to winter kill but can survive a mild winter with snow cover.



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)

