

FABA BEAN Bean

Key Features

Faba beans are a cool season legume with many beneficial attributes. Their tall stalk-like growth works well as a cover crop that can provide highly digestible forage for many types of livestock. As a cover crop, faba beans have a tap root that works to build soil and pull up nutrients from lower soil layers. Being a legume, faba beans will also fix nitrogen and store it in its tissue for the following crop. At flowering, faba beans can serve as a great pollinator in a mix.

Application

Cover Crop
Forage
Pollinator

Planting Time

Spring or Fall

Establishment

Faba beans can tolerate cool, wet soils, so early spring seeding may be an option to serve as a cover crop or forage. For fall planting, seed 3-6 weeks before the first killing frost in order to accumulate enough growth for nitrogen fixing to occur.

Planting depth: 1-2 inches

Management Keys

Faba beans are very large seeded and can be difficult in a mix; however, proper drill calibration can alleviate most issues. When possible, faba beans should be seeded using the large seed box.

Faba beans will winter-kill in the Midwest. When planted as a spring cover crop, faba beans can be terminated mechanically or chemically before the following crop. Allow plant to reach flowering for maximum nitrogen fixing. Flowering can occur 30-60 days from planting depending on the number of heat units accumulated.



Seeding Rates

Drilled	60-75#
In a Blend	10-30#
Broadcast	NR
Aerial	NR

Attributes

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

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

