

# Hairy Vetch

(*vicia villosa*)



## Legume

Hairy Vetch, also called sand vetch, is a winter-hardy legume. Used as a cover crop in Ontario and in the US upper Midwest. Forage trials in Saskatchewan and Alberta have shown great promise as a short-term rotation, green manure, intercrops and/or late season grazing crop in Western Canada

## Growth Habit

Hairy vetch has a vine like growth habit 12 to 20 inches in monoculture. Vines will grow 3 to 4 feet in height if sown with cereals, but actual vine length will be much longer. Tap rooted with root extending 2-3 feet with the secondary roots in the upper 20 cm

## Adaptation

A native European and Asian legume, hairy vetch is drought tolerant, once established and does best on sandy soils. Most commonly used vetch in North America

## Reclamation Uses

Hairy vetch is a legume used primarily for soil improvement along roadsides and for bank stabilization. Well-nodulated hairy vetch can enrich the soil with 60 to 120 lb/acre of nitrogen through nitrogen fixation. Once established it provides enough cover to suppress weeds and protect soil.

## Quick Facts

Growth Habit	Flooding Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Soil pH	Soil Type	Seedling Vigor	Seeds per lb.
Tap root legume	Fair	Good	Poor	Very Acidic 6.0 - 7.0	Sandy-Clay	Good	33000