

Hairy Vetch

(*Vicia villosa*)

Description:

Hairy Vetch, an introduced species, 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 24 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.

Adaption:

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
Tap root legume	Fair	Good	Poor
Soil pH	Soil Type	Seeds/lb	
Very acidic 6.0-7.0	Sandy-clay	33,000	

