

Blue lupin was a traditional cover crop in the South and it is adapted to the lower Coastal Plain. Under the right conditions, it can produce good biomass and nitrogen. Some varieties have alkaloids that are toxic to livestock. “Sweet” (low alkaloid) cultivars should be used in mixed row crop/livestock operations where the cover crop might be grazed.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
TIFBLUE-78	A low-alkaloid “sweet” blue lupin. Can be used in mixed row crop/livestock operations. Sweet lupins are attractive to wildlife.	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Narrow-leaf sweet blue lupin VNS	High biomass reported - 7,000 - 8,000 lbs dry biomass/acre.	Bill Anderson – personal communication, Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data, Scully et al. 2012

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	No deeper than 1 inch	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	50 - 90 Use <i>Rhizobium lupini</i> inoculant.	Managing Cover Crops Profitably, USDA White Lupin Plant Guide
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	60 - 100 Difficult with large seed and good moisture is needed.	USDA White Lupin Plant Guide
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Termination Information

Information	Source
Blue lupin can be terminated with herbicides, rolling and crimping, mowing, or tillage. The hollow stems crush or break readily, making it easy to plant cash crops using conservation tillage equipment.	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.	

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments		Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	5,000 - 6,000		Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	100 - 150		Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Life Cycle	Cool season annual legume	Blooms in March in south Georgia.	USDA White Lupin Plant Guide
Growth Habit	Upright		
Preferred Soil pH	5.6 - 7.5		USDA White Lupin Plant Guide
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$\$\$		Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	N/A		
Cautions	Use with caution before peanuts or soybeans because lupin is host for white mold. Lupins should be rotated with small grains due to susceptibility to viral and fungal diseases.		Managing Cover Crops Profitably

Sources:

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Annual Reports:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2_022076

Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books>

Scully, B.T., T.M. Webster, D.M. Olson, R.F. Davis, T.C. Strickland, J.E. Knoll and W. A. Anderson. TAPPI presentation. Integration of Sorghum as a Biofuel Species into Cropping Systems for the Southeastern U.S.

USDA White Lupin Plant Guide: https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_lual22.pdf