Velvetbean is a traditional southern crop used to fatten cattle. It is no longer widely used, but can be used as a summer cover crop. It is reported to suppress nematodes. It may attract velvetbean caterpillar and termination may be difficult.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
	No specific varieties are available.	

Planting Information

Information		Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	½ - 2		Petcher Seeds
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	20 - 40	Use *Bradyrhizobium* spp. inoculant These are large seeds that cannot be easily drilled. A planter with a corn plate may be the best option using 2-3 seeds/foot.	ARS Fact Sheet
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)		Not a preferred method unless timely moisture is available for stand establishment. May consider drag or mowing of prior crop residues to aid in seed soil contact.	
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)		Not recommended.	

Termination Information

Information	Source
Velvetbean can be terminated by mowing, herbicides or tillage. Mowing or undercutting is preferred method, but many velvetbeans are very viney and can present problems for mowers. Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.	NC State Summer Cover Crop Information Sheet

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	5,000 - 10,000	ARS Fact Sheet
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	Up to 270	ARS Fact Sheet
Life Cycle	Summer annual legume	
Growth Habit	Viney	
Preferred Soil pH	5.8 - 7.0	Petcher Seeds
Relative Seed Cost ($/acre)	$$$$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	65°	Petcher Seeds
Cautions	Termination can be difficult.	

Sources:

ARS Fact Sheet: https://iapreview.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/60100500/FactSheets/FS04t.pdf

NC State Summer Cover Crop Information Sheet: https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/summer-cover-crops

Petcher Seeds: https://petcherseeds.com/products/velvet-beans