

Common vetch can be used as a cover crop in the Coastal Plain. It is less winter hardy than hairy vetch. Vetches generally produce more biomass and N than crimson clover. However, vetches can become weed since these are hard-seeded, which can be a particular problem for small grain producers.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Cahaba White	Earlier growth than common hairy vetch. Resistant to root knot and soybean cyst nematode.	Grow Your Own N: Legumes in Row Crop Systems

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	1 - 2	Grow Your Own N: Legumes in Row Crop Systems
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	30 - 40 Use <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum biovar viciae</i> inoculant.	Grow Your Own N: Legumes in Row Crop Systems
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	30 - 60	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Termination Information

Information	Source
Common vetch can be terminated by herbicides, rolling & crimping, mowing, or tillage. Mechanical termination is more successful at 80% bloom, but should be conducted before seed set.	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Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	2,300 - 4,000	Grow Your Own N: Legumes in Row Crop Systems, Unpublished Literature Review in Coastal Plain – Gaskin
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	75 - 125	Grow Your Own N: Legumes in Row Crop Systems, Unpublished Literature Review in Coastal Plain – Gaskin
Life Cycle	Annual cool season legume	
Growth Habit	Prostrate viney	
Preferred Soil pH	6.0 – 7.0	
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$	
Min. Germination Temp (F)	N/A	
Cautions	Abundant hard seed.	

Sources:

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

Mitchell, C.C. and J. Mosjidis. 2006 Grow Your Own N: Legumes in Row Crop Systems. Agronomy Series Timely Information Alabama Cooperative Extension S-05-06