

Cowpeas (also known as black-eyed peas) are a warm season drought tolerant legume. They can be used as forage in dual use cover crop systems. Cowpeas tend to smother and outcompete weeds very well. They provide good green manure and substantial N fixing potential.

### Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Ace	Small-seed cultivar with good forage and hay production potential. Earlier flowering than Iron and Clay variety	Texas A&M AgriLife
Iron and Clay	Widely used with seed available in the southeastern U.S.	SARE
Red Ripper		

### Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1-2"	SARE
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	30-90 Higher rate used for larger seeded varieties. Use <i>Bradyrhizobium</i> spp. inoculant	
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	70-100 Higher rate used for larger seeded varieties.	
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

### Termination Information

Information	Source
Mowing stops vegetative growth, but may not kill.	SARE
Shallow tillage and herbicides* ensure complete kill.	
*Always follow herbicide labels for crop to be terminated and for compatibility with subsequent crop(s). Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations.	

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## Cultural Traits

Traits		Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	2,500-6,000		Texas A&M AgriLife Personal communication
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	80-150		
Life Cycle	Warm season annual legume		
Growth Habit	Diverse	Some are short and upright Some are taller and viny	
Preferred Soil pH	5.5-7.5		
Relative Costs	\$\$		
Min. Germination Temp	65°F		
Cautions		If allowed to produce seed, volunteer growth can occur during subsequent crop(s)	

**Sources:**

Texas A&M AgriLife:  
<http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/texas-am-releases-new-ace-cowpea/>  
 Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.

SARE:  
<https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition/Text-Version/Legume-Cover-Crops/Cowpeas>