

Hairy vetch is known as a high N providing legume with good weed suppression activity. Although vetch grows best in the cool season, it can be grown as a summer annual in cooler climates. It is a hard seeded plant as well, which can pose problems with volunteer growth at inopportune times. Vetch requires fertilization with P and K fertilizers (according to soil test recommendations) to achieve its best growth potential. Also has a relatively high water requirement. Achieving full growth potential prior to corn planting in the Blacklands may not be possible due to late maturation. Can be grazed or cut for hay.

### Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
	High N input. Good weed control	SARE

### Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1"-1.5"	Early planting is essential in fall (~Sept to Oct) to ensure enough growth to avoid winter kill.
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	15-20	Early planting is essential in fall (~Sept to Oct) to ensure enough growth to avoid winter kill. Use <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum biovar viciae</i> inoculant.
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	20-30	Disking after broadcasting improves seed soil contact
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

### Termination Information

Information	Source
Rolling / crimping, cutting, or mowing favors continued weed suppression activity, while incorporation (plowing in) favors N mineralization and release for the following crop.	SARE
Broadcast herbicide (glyphosate, 2,4-D, Tricopyr). Glyphosate alone may not be 100% effective*	Texas A&M AgriLife
Mature vetch puts out tough vines at ground level that can pose problems with equipment for soil preparation and planting the following crop. Termination before flowering / seed production minimizes this issue.	
*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)	1,000-3,000 (early termination) 4,000-6,000 (full maturity)	
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	100-150	
Life Cycle	Winter annual Summer annual (cooler climates)	
Growth Habit	Upright with long vines at soil surface	
Preferred Soil pH	5.5-7.5	
Relative Costs	\$\$\$	
Min. Germination Temp	60°F	
Cautions	Vetch is large and hard seeded. Many farmers have noted unwanted volunteer growth during warm and cool season cash crops.	

### Sources:

Mirsky, S.B., V.J. Ackroyd, S. Cordeau, W.S. Curran, M. Hashemi, S.C. Reberg-Horton, M.R. Ryan, and J.T. Spargo. 2017. Hairy Vetch Biomass across Eastern United States: Effects of Latitude, Seeding Rate and Date and Termination Timing. *Agron. J.* 109:1510-1519.

Texas A&M AgriLife:  
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/Hairy-Vetch>