

Sesame has been recently introduced to Texas as a summer oilseed crop with good drought and high heat tolerance characteristics. These same characteristics make it suitable as a rain fed cover crop in the Blacklands of Texas. It is high in protein and can be grown as a dual use (forage/cover) crop. Sesame is best adapted to sandy well-drained soils, but has been grown successfully for a number of years on Blackland soils. Sesame is also known to reduce root-knot nematode populations in subsequent crops while attracting beneficial insects. Less expensive seed than that sold for contract oil seed is available and can be used to grow sesame as a monoculture cover or as part of a cover crop mix.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Benne	Easily available in the Southern U.S.	Personal communications

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	0.5-1.0"	
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	2-3	Narrow rows needed to outcompete weeds.
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	3-5	
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Termination Information

Information	Source
Winterkills easily, but may be mowed, shredded, plowed in, or otherwise terminated with herbicide*	
*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)	800-1,000	
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	20-40	
Life Cycle	Warm season annual broadleaf	
Growth Habit	Upright ~2-3' tall	125-135 days to maturity
Preferred Soil pH	5.0-8.0	
Relative Costs	\$-\$\$	
Min. Germination Temp	70°F	
Cautions	Slow to grow into seedling stage, and so may require herbicide to control competing weeds to ensure good stand.	

Sources:

Texas A&M AgriLife:
 Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.