



Originally introduced in the U.S. as a forage crop, soybean has come to prominence as a global commodity. However, it still makes an effective cover crop with dual use (forage/cover) systems, and it has high N fixing potential. Soybean has not been widely used as a cover in Texas, but cheaper conventional variety seed can be used economically for cover cropping as a monoculture or as part of a mix. Always check trait licenses with seed dealers to ensure you are operating within license agreements.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Hutcheson	Good N fixing potential and soil erosion prevention.	Personal Communication

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1-2"	Personal Communication
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	35-50	To get canopy closure quickly for weed suppression, use narrow row spacing (~15-20") Use <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i> inoculant.
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	80	Soil surface must remain wet during germination period. Do not use treated seed when broadcasting to minimize non-target species effects
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	No data available for Blacklands

Termination Information

Information	Source
Mowing, plowing into the soil, and herbicide* application are all options.	
*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)	2,000-4,000	Personal Communication
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	80-150	
Life Cycle	Warm season annual legume	
Growth Habit	Short and upright	
Preferred Soil pH	5.5-7.5	
Relative Costs	\$\$	
Min. Germination Temp	65°F	
Cautions	Always check license agreements for applicability of purchased seed for cover cropping purposes.	

Sources:

Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.