

Sunn hemp is adapted to southern U.S. summer conditions and can mature quickly (<90 days) to produce high biomass and fix large amounts of nitrogen. The rapid growth characteristics help to outcompete and control weeds. There is some evidence that sunn hemp can suppress root-knot nematodes. Sunn hemp does not seed in the continental U.S. due to its tropical nature and need for warmer temperatures when days are <12 hours long to reproduce. Although well suited to sandy well-drained soils, sunn hemp is adapted to a wide variety of soil types.

### Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Tropic Sun	High biomass production and N fixation, non-toxic for livestock and poultry suppression of root-knot nematode.	SARE

### Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1/2-1"	USDA/NRCS
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	30-50	Use <i>Bradyrhizobium</i> spp. inoculant
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	40-60	
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

### Termination Information

Information	Source
Mowing, rolling & crimping, plowing in and herbicide*	
<p>*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.</p>	

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## Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	4,000-5,000	
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	100-150	
Life Cycle	Warm season annual legume	
Growth Habit	upright	
Preferred Soil pH	5-7.5	
Relative Costs	\$\$\$	
Min. Germination Temp	65°F	
Cautions	Many sources recommend feeding sunn hemp to livestock, however, only the Tropic Sun variety is nontoxic for grazing. Purity of seed can be an issue.	

### Sources:

Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.

### SARE:

<https://www.southernsare.org/SARE-in-Your-State/Alabama/State-News/Get-the-Most-Out-of-Forage-Systems-for-Goats-with-Sunn-Hemp>

Using Sunn Hemp as a Cover Crop in Oklahoma. Warren, Wilson, and Edwards Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service PSS-2273.

### USDA NRCS:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/njpmcpg11706.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/njpmcpg11706.pdf)