

# Hairy Vetch

*Vicia villosa*



Hairy vetch is widely used by organic growers in the United States as a winter cover crop, as it is both winter hardy and can fix as much as 200 lb/ acre of atmospheric nitrogen. It is a vine-type plant with purple flowers which makes it a good cover crop for prairiegrass and wildflowers. It is good for hay and pasture, and erosion control. Disadvantages of hairy vetch in production agriculture are related to the crop having a portion of hard seed and its tendency to shatter seed early in the season - leading to it remaining in the field as a weed later in the season. This can be a particular problem in wheat production.

**Seeding Rate:** Drilled: 20 - 25 Lbs. / Ac | Broadcast: 1 Lb. / 800 sq ft  
**Height Range (inches):** 12 - 24  
**Seeds Per Pound:** 20,000

## *Taxonomy*

*Species: villosa*

*Genus: Vicia*

*Family: Fabaceae*

*Order: Fabales*

*Subclass: Rosidae*

*Class: Magnoliopsida*

*Division: Magnoliophyta*

*Subkingdom: Tracheobionta*

*Kingdom: Plantae*



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