

## Hairy Vetch Growing Guide



### **Crop Rotation Group**

Legumes (Pea and Bean family)

### **Soil**

Any average, well drained soil.

### **Position**

Full sun to partial afternoon shade.

### **Frost tolerant**

Many varieties are cold hardy to -20F (- 29C) when well rooted in the garden.

### **Feeding**

When using hairy vetch to improve very poor soil, mixing a balanced organic fertilizer into the soil before planting will give better results.

### **Companions**

Rye and Wheat.

### **Spacing**

**Single Plants:** 3" (10cm) each way (minimum)

**Rows:** 3" (10cm) with 3" (10cm) row gap (minimum)

### **Sow and Plant**

Sow hairy vetch in late summer so the plants can become established before cold weather comes.

Broadcast seed into cultivated soil so that the seeds are about 3 inches (7 cm) apart and one-half inch (1 cm) deep. No thinning is required.

### **Notes**

Hairy vetch stays small through winter and makes vigorous growth in spring. It is highly recommended as a cover crop to grow before tomatoes.

### **Harvesting**

Take down plants in spring, 3 weeks before the bed is needed for summer vegetables. The easiest method is to slice plants off at the soil line with a sharp hoe. The cut plants can be allowed to dry into a surface mulch.

### **Troubleshooting**

Hairy vetch can become weedy if allowed to produce mature seeds.