

Crown Vetch

Technical Sheet

Crownvetch has a multi-branched root system and spreads by strong fleshy rhizomes.

It normally grows to a height of 1½ to 2 feet and has very attractive red, purple, and white blooms.

Used for erosion control because of it's spreading growth habit and strong root system providing soil holding ability and ground cover.

Crown vetch has been successfully used with switchgrass on dry sites in the East, forming an understory but providing nitrogen. Rapid soil organic matter improvement has occurred with this species combination, which stabilizes soil better than crownvetch used alone; in general, however, crownvetch dominates other plants and tends toward a monoculture.

Crownvetch produces palatable high quality forage for all classes of livestock either as hay or pasture. There is little or no bloat hazard in grazing crownvetch. Remove first hay harvest about 10 to 14 days after first flowers appear. Leave a six inch stubble as new growth will come from buds on the stems. The second harvest will come about 8 to 9 weeks later.

SEEDING RATE

15 - 20 lb. / acre

In mix plantings, use 15 to 20 pounds of crownvetch with either tall fescue or ryegrass at 30 pounds per acre. These grasses provides quick growth and protect the site while the slower growing legume is getting established. Seeding in the spring is best. Do not seed after mid-summer.



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