

# Lupin

*Lupinus* spp.



Season types: Winter legume

## Uses

|                      |   |                     |   |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Compaction reduction | G | Attract beneficials | E |
| Residue persistence  | F | Nitrogen scavenger  | F |
| Erosion control      | G | P & K scavenger     | G |
| Weed control         | G | Forage quality      | P |
| Nematode control     | E |                     |   |

E=Excellent; VG=Very Good; G=Good; F=Fair; P=Poor/None

Seeding rate: 70 to 120 lb/acre  
(Inoculant: Lupin-type)

Planting date: Winter legume: Sept. to early Oct.; Summer: early April

## Production

Residue: 5,000 to 10,000 lb/acre  
Nitrogen: up to 350 lb N/acre

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*Lupinus* spp.



Photo courtesy of Dr. E. van Santen, Auburn University

*Where no kind of manure is to be had, I think the cultivation of lupines will be found the readiest and best substitute. If they are sown about the middle of September in a poor soil ... they will answer as well as the best manure.*

— Columella, First Century, Rome

## Origin

Commercial varieties are mostly from Europe and the Middle East. Native forms also occur.

## Surface residue

Large amounts produced provide weed control, water conservation, and organic matter buildup.

## Pest control

Lupins contain alkaloids that may aid in disease, insect, and nematode control.

## Nitrogen fixation

As legumes, lupins fix up to 350 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

## Attract beneficials

Lupin flowers attract bees and other beneficial insects.

Not tolerant of waterlogging.



Root nodules on white lupinus house bacteria responsible for nitrogen fixation. Photo courtesy of E. van Santen, Auburn University.

Adapted from *Managing Crover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition*



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