

Winter Pea

Pisum sativum



Season type: Winter legume

Uses

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

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

Seeding rate: 60 to 90 lb/acre

Inoculant: Pea-type

Planting date: September

Production

Residue: 5,000 to 8,000 lb/acre

Nitrogen: 90 to 150 lb N/acre

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Surface residue

Grows as a vine, similar to vetch. Lots of residue, but can decompose relatively quickly because of the high-nitrogen content.

Nitrogen fixation

A legume, winter pea provides up to 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Weed control

Winter pea produces some compounds that inhibit weeds.

Prefers a well-drained clay or heavy loam soil. Is intolerant of water logging and drought, but is moisture-efficient.

Is susceptible to some diseases and nematodes.

A good forage with barley, oat, or triticale – boosts the protein content of the forage mix.



Adapted from *Managing Cover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition*



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