



SPRING PEAS

You may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do you know the benefits of each species? Each month we'll highlight a different cover crop species to provide you with the information needed to successfully grow covers or alternative forages on your operation.

AT A GLANCE

- Provides up to 80lbs of Nitrogen
- High protein content
- Perfect spring cover crop, green manure crop, and increases organic matter content

PLANTING DETAILS

- Spring peas should be planted after April 15th when the ground reaches suitable temperatures.
- Seeding rates vary depending on the seeding methods but should be within the 25 - 50lbs an acre range with broadcast seeding on the higher side at 45+ lbs an acre.
- When drilled, spring peas should be seeded at a depth of one to two inches.

GROWING CONDITIONS

- Commonly used as a cover crop and alternative forage.
- Seeded when the top one inch of the soil reaches 40 degrees or frost seeded, making it perfect for spring cover cropping.
- These peas will outgrow winter peas that are spring planted and provide up to 80lbs of Nitrogen when harvested midseason

BENEFITS

Green Manure Crop

Make for a great green manure crop due to the quick breakdown time of residue once stems are cut.

Protein Content and Digestibility

When used as a forage spring pea will provide high protein content and should be paired with other crop species to provide the animal with fiber and digestible energy.

Cover Crop and Organic Matter

Small grains including barley, rye, triticale, oats, and wheat are excellent partners for Spring Pea cover cropping and will increase organic matter content.



**MORRISON CTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
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