

Mung Beans Bean

Key Features

Mung beans are a productive heat-adapted legume that thrives in hot, moist zones where corn flourishes, but require more heat for optimum growth. This legume has excellent drought tolerance and is adapted to well-drained sandy-loam and clay-loam soils. Mung beans can produce high amounts of biomass in a short time during the summer when the Midwest is experiencing high temperatures.

As a cover crop, mung beans can serve as nitrogen fixing legumes that will also help build soils with their branched root system. As a forage, mung beans provide very high protein, up to 16-23%, for livestock and wildlife.

Application

Cover Crop
Forage

Planting Time

Summer

Establishment

Plant early summer when soil temperatures are at least 60 degrees and rising for best results. At the end of the summer, mung beans can be planted up to 6-8 weeks before the first frost to achieve adequate growth as a cover crop or forage.

Management Keys

Compared to cowpeas, mung beans are slightly more drought tolerant and have a shorter maturity and stature. Mung beans also have a smaller seed size which can make them more compatible in cover crop and forage blends.

For forage or cover crop use, combine mung beans with other warm season annuals such as sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass, or millet for a very high-quality forage that can be grazed or harvested as silage. Mung beans have a seed pod that will stay tight later in the season, maintaining protein content.



Seeding Rates

Drilled	20-25#
Broadcast	30-40#
Aerial	NR

Attributes

N Fixation	5
Nutrient Scavenging	3
Nutrient Release	5
Wind Erosion	3
Water Erosion	3

Scale 1-5 (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent)

Seeding Depth

1" - 2"

