

SAINFOIN

Onobrychis viciaefolia



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from Eurasia. Cool season, short-lived, perennial, non-bloating, legume. Stems semierect, 1 to 3' tall. Leaves pinnately compound with 11 to 27 elliptic to lance-shaped leaflets. Numerous showy pink to purple pea-like flowers borne in racemes. Deep taproot with several large and many fine laterals. Nitrogen fixing.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on deep, fertile, sandy to silty textured well-drained soils. Good performance on calcareous soils and moderately tolerant of saline

and weakly acidic soils. Not productive on shallow soils. Needs 16 to 20" ppt. but grows moderately well in cooler areas with over 13" ppt. Often short-lived in heavy textured soils. Good with irrigation and cool season grass mixtures where water is limited. Growth resumes earlier than alfalfa. More winter hardiness but less drought resistance than alfalfa.

CULTURE

Plant seed 1/2 - 1" deep. Seed 25 lbs. PLS per acre on dryland or 35 lbs. PLS per acre under irrigation. Reduce seeding rates 40 - 50 % when planting in mixtures. Good seedling vigor. Usually better stand establishment and longevity when seeded with grass in alternate rows 12 to 24" spacing. Plant in early spring and where feasible on fallowed land. Late spring or early summer seeding satisfactory with irrigation. Inoculate with specific inoculum before planting. Weed control and grazing protection are required.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Recommended for dryland or irrigated hay or pasture, especially in the northern Intermountain and northwestern Great Plains. Multiple cuttings for hay under irrigation but usually one cutting on dryland. Performance good with cool season grasses and birdsfoot trefoil for irrigated hay and forage system. Palatable and nutritious to livestock, and wildlife. Do not over graze, allow good regrowth before grazing. Often overgrazed by livestock and big game. Extremely palatable to deer.

Crown and root rot pathogens limit production and causes stand thinning. More prevalent with irrigated stands.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Eski' released from Montana.
'Remont' released from Montana.
'Melrose' released from Canada.
'Renumex'.

PawneeButtesSeedInc.

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