

Vail winter pea is flexible enough for Bio-Crop™ Cover Crop, Cattle Grazing and Wildlife Plot use. Vail has the strong nitrogen fixing capacity of a cover crop variety while providing the better tasting forage that deer and turkeys and cattle like compared to Austrian Winter Pea. As a winter pea, Vail can recover and regrow after grazing the same way it recovers from winter freezes. Spring peas do not recover as well.



Picture at left shows a Vail plant dug up in the mid spring showing the nitrogen fixing nodules on the roots. Vail has deeper and denser roots and therefore has more sites where nitrogen fixing bacteria can form nodules. Winter peas also fix nitrogen earlier in the maturity cycle and earlier in the spring than spring peas.



Ken Fuchs inspecting Vail in North Idaho in late May.

Cover Crop use and Livestock Grazing

Vail is well suited for BioCrop™ Cover Crop use

- Vail has good winter survival compared to other winter peas.
- Growth habit that is compatible in a blend. Vail does not dominate or fade in a blend.
- Vail has smaller seed size for better seeding ease.
- Vail has a deeper and denser root system than any spring peas. This gives Vail roots more sites for nitrogen fixing when inoculant is added at seeding time.
- Strong stooling/branching capability which contributes to the denser canopy.
- Vail winter pea is better suited than spring peas for livestock grazing because it recovers better after grazing just as it recovers better after freezing.
- Vail will grow slowly above ground in the fall while putting more of their energy into root building.

Wildlife Food Plots

Vail is uniquely adapted for use in Wildlife plots.

- A white flowered pea like Vail is free from anthacyanin unlike the purple flowered Austrian Winter Pea. As a result, the forage from Vail is more digestible and sweeter tasting to wildlife.
- Deer like the sweetness of Vail to the point that they will graze the Vail completely while ignoring other grazing options like grazing corn, forage soybeans or Austrian Winter Peas.
- Equal or better winter survival than other winter peas currently available.
- Small seed size for more plants for your dollar.
- Vail performs even better for wildlife if blended with a spring grazing pea for late summer or early fall planting. The spring peas grow in August and September faster so the deer put grazing pressure on the spring peas while allowing the Vail to become better established.

Bred and Developed By:
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Put your contact names and numbers in here.