FORAGE & GRAIN CROPS

Ebony Cowpea

Fast growing, multi purpose legume – drought tolerant

Vigna unguiculata

High nutritional value and palatability. Good soil conditioner and adapted to a wide range of soil types. Easy and quick to establish, high yielding with high seed production. Seed rate as a monoculture or in a mix will depend on soil moisture and/or irrigation. Ensure soil temperatures are 16°C and rising.



ABOUT THIS VARIETY

Ebony Cowpea is an annual diploid summer legume forage crop exhibiting a spreading growth habit. Ebony Cowpea was released to Australia as a grazing type of cowpea suited to subtropical coastal areas with medium rainfall or in areas with irrigation.

It can be used as a dual-purpose crop either for grain and/or forage. It is an annual with herbaceous growth habit – from prostrate trailing plant to climbing vine. It produces high seed yields where both seed and plant offer high nutritive value and palatability.

It is easy to establish and is known to improve soil fertility through nitrogen fixation. It is widely adaptable to a range of soil types and has greater drought tolerance than other pulses. Used as a grain for human consumption or as forage for livestock.

QUICK FACTS

TYPE & PERSISTENCY
Annual

MIN RAINFALL
500 mm+

SOIL & PH
Soil range: Sand to Heavy · pH 4+ ($CaCl_2$)

SOWING RATE
15–20 kg/ha General

TOLERANCES
Drought

END USE
Grazing, Hay, Silage, Green manure, Grain

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- ✓ High nutritional value and palatability
- ✓ Long production season
- ✓ Excellent source of nitrogen in summer rotations
- ✓ Easy and quick to establish, high yielding
- ✓ Resistant to Phytophthora stem rot races 3 and 4
- ✓ Good companion legume with millet and forage sorghum

PLANTING & GRAZING NOTES

Ensure soil temperatures are 16˚C and rising. Sow at a depth of 3 – 5 cm. Use 18 – 35cm row spacings to achieve 9 – 13 plants per m^2. Wider row spacings allow for better livestock access and reduce trampling. Requires inoculant Group I. Ebony Cowpea is susceptible to frost.

DISEASE & PEST RESISTANCE

Resistance to stem rot disease races 3 and 4 of the severe root rot fungus, Phytophthora vignae, and good tolerance to Phytophthora root disease. Prone to Bean fly attack on late sown crops at the 2 – 3 leaf stage.

STAND LIFE

Annual summer legume forage crop with a long production season.

HOW IT'S SOLD

FORM	PACK
Bare	25 kg