**Cowpea (Black-Eyed Pea)**

**Plant Characteristics**: Upright annual that grows up to 12 to 18 inches tall.

**Emergence time**: 4 to 10 days

**Min. germination soil temp**: 65oF

**Annual or Perennial:** Annual

**Salinity Tolerant:** pH 5.5 – 6.5

**Tolerances:** Drought

**Cool or Warm season:** Warm (mid-May to early September planting)

The following goals for this species are ranked 0-4, 0=Poor, 1=Fair, 2=Good, 3=Very Good, 4=Excellent.

**Nitrogen Source**: 4

**Nitrogen Scavenger**: 1

**Soil Builder**: 2

**Erosion Fighter**: 2

**Lasting Residue**: 1

**Weed Fighter**: 2

**Grazing**: 2

**Forage Harvest Value**: 4

**Recommended Seeding Dates**: April - October

**Planting Depth**: ¼ to ½ inch

**Min. Seeding Rate (incorporated)**: 30 lbs./ac PLS

**Min. Seeding Rate (non-incorporated)**: 45 lbs./ac PLS

**Termination Options**: Till and then apply herbicide

**Other notes**: Rapid growth and short living window

**Resources**:

*Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide*-Midwest Cover Crop Council

*Managing Cover Crops Profitably*-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Green Cover Seed-Soil Health





