

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

Fenugreek

Botanical name	Trigonella foenum-graecum
Seeding rate	35 kg/ha
Distance between rows	Similar to cereals
Sowing period	Late spring
Sowing depth	1-2 cm
Sowing method	Combination of seed drill and rotary harrow



Botany

- Family: Fabaceae (legumes)
- Origin: Asia and Africa, where it is widely cultivated
- Annual, non winter-hardy clover-like species
- Usage: versatile crop, can be used as fodder as well as an herb or medicinal plant (essential oils make it a valuable fodder crop, and the notable presence of coumarin compounds make it smell like dried hay)
- Long taproot that grows deep into the ground
- Hollow sulcate stem, erect, 20 to 50 cm high (seldom prostrate, often branched)
- Loose cluster of long-stemmed leaves have three obovate or triangular leaflets of almost the same size (long petiole in the middle) with distinct serration in the plant's upper third
- Stipules: comparatively large, lanceolate, triangular, slightly peaked, with soft hairs, light green in colour
- Flowering: between April and July, pale yellow to light bluish papilionaceous flowers in leaf axils
- Pods: 3 to 10 cm long and 0.5 to 1 cm wide with 3 cm long beak-like tip, straight or slightly bent and erect

Climate requirements

- Warm, sunny climate
- High sensitivity to frost

Soil requirements

- Well-drained soil that warms up easily
- Fine, crumbly and well-settled seedbed
- pH of 6.4-7

Crop rotation

- Still quite rare in northern Europe, small cultivation areas exist in southern Germany
- Like clover, it is not autotolerant; pure stands require an interval of 5-6 years
- As a legume, it works well as a preceding crop for winter cereals

Crop protection

- Limited experience in Germany to date: susceptible to early weed infestation due to slow establishment, should therefore be cultivated only on fields with extremely low weed pressure
- Susceptible to *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* (maintain cultivation intervals)

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Fertilisation

- As a legume, fenugreek can convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form usable by plants
- Requires adequate supply of iron, molybdenum and sulphur

Harvest and treatment

- Cutting when used for fodder
- Pods threshed out for seeds
- Subsequent drying may be required depending on maturation



If you have questions, please feel free to contact us!

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