

# CROWN VETCH

## CROWN VETCH

### OVERVIEW

CROWN VETCH is a perennial herb in the pea/legume family. It has spreading to diffuse, creeping stems that can reach two to six feet in length. The leaves are dark green, compound and bear fifteen to twenty-ve leaflets. The seed pods are narrow, segmented, pointed, borne in crown-like clusters and may be two to three inches long. The pea-like, pinkish-white to deep pink flowers occur in clusters at the end of extended stalks and appear from late spring through summer. CROWN VETCH has a multi-branched root system and can spread by its strong rhizomes.

### DISTRIBUTION

Crown vetch prefers sunny, open areas. However, it is tolerant of temperatures down to -33o C, periods of drought and periods of heavy precipitation. Since crown vetch was originally planted for erosion control, it is now located mostly along roadsides, rights-of-way, open fields, waste grounds and on gravel bars along streams.

- Winter active
- Dormancy rating of 9
- Resistant to Phytophthora Root Rot and Collectotrichum Crown Rot
- Suited to short term paddock rotations
- Well suited to rotational grazing hay making

