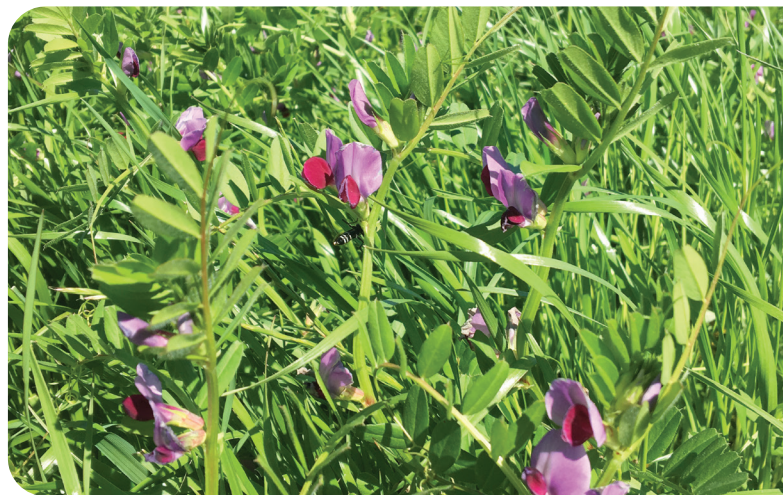


# Timok

COMMON VETCH  
: *Vicia sativa*



## Quick Seed Facts



### Sowing rate

- ⇒ 35–60kg/ha

### Maturity

- ⇒ Mid (100–105 days)

### Suitability

- ⇒ Hay
- ⇒ Silage
- ⇒ Grazing
- ⇒ Multi-species covercrops
- ⇒ Green manure

### Seed treatment

- ⇒ None/XLR8® optional

Timok is a mid-maturing common vetch variety that flowers 100–105 days after sowing, making it suitable to areas receiving more than 380mm of annual rainfall. It has similar production to late-maturing varieties in high rainfall situations but superior production in lower rainfall environments. Timok was developed by the SARDI National Vetch Breeding Program.

## FEATURES & BENEFITS

- ⊕ **Very high dry matter potential**  
Increased stock carrying capacity and fodder conservation  
Highest possible nitrogen fixation
- ⊕ **Mid-maturity**  
Compared to other varieties, excels in conditions where spring rainfall can be limited
- ⊕ **Strong disease package**  
Rust resistance for improved quality and yield

## STRENGTHS

- ⊕ Biomass production in challenging seasons
- ⊕ Nitrogen fixation
- ⊕ Great for use in crop rotation
- ⊕ Excellent companion species
- ⊕ Improves protein levels in forage and fodder
- ⊕ Very good vigour at flowering

## LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Poor recovery from overgrazing
- ▶ Limited growth in highly acidic soils compared with Pek vetch
- ▶ Poor tolerance to waterlogged soils

## WHERE IT GROWS

**Rainfall:** Timok vetch thrives in regions with annual rainfall of 350mm to 600mm.

**Soils:** Timok vetch prefers well-drained, fertile soils but is quite adaptable. Avoid waterlogged soils and highly acidic soils (below pH 5.0) this will significantly reduce nodulation and nitrogen fixation. Susceptible to high levels of aluminium in soils.

**Temperature:** Vetch is adapted to Mediterranean and temperate zones of Australia (10–35°C). As for all common vetch varieties, Timok is tolerant of mild frosts but could occasionally be impacted by severe frost in southern regions.

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**AlfaGen**  
SEEDS

# Timok

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Plant with  
confidence

## ESTABLISHMENT

Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

**Sowing time:** Sow in autumn when soil temperatures are at least 10°C (15–20°C is optimal).

**Sowing depth:** Covered with 5–15mm of firm soil to achieve good seed-to-soil contact.

**Inoculation:** The correct viable rhizobia strain/group (group E) is required to infect the root system for optimum nitrogen fixation by the plant.

**Fertiliser:** Establishing vetch with fertiliser (phosphate, sulphur and potassium) is normally recommended, with seed and fertiliser separated in the soil to avoid seed damage. Inoculated Timok plants will fix nitrogen for themselves so fertiliser is not essential, however, nitrogen fertiliser is normally beneficial to the non-legume species (e.g. oats) in multi-species crops, but this will have no negative effect on vetch.

## COMPANION SPECIES

- ⊕ Forage cereals
- ⊕ Pasture grasses
- ⊕ Clover & pasture legumes
- ⊕ Forage herbs & brassica
- ⊕ Tropical pasture grasses

## MANAGEMENT

**In-crop fertiliser:** Most soils lack enough nutrients to maximise yield from vetch, so fertiliser applications will improve the result. Use a soil test to confirm potassium, phosphorus, and sulphur levels and then decide which nutrients and rates are needed for optimum production.

When nitrogen fertiliser is used to improve yield from non-legume companion species this will not reduce growth from vetch. Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

**Grazing/cutting:** Vetch is highly palatable and can provide excellent winter and spring feed for grazing as well as hay/silage, but management is important to maximise production and persistence. If the crop is to be grazed, begin when plants are 15–20cm long and well anchored.

## MANAGEMENT CONTINUED...

Avoid grazing too early, as young plants can be pulled out by livestock and establishment may be compromised. Remove animals from the paddock before vetch plants are grazed below 5cm because leaving some stem and leaves will improve regrowth. Stock can be returned to the paddock when plants have recovered to 15–20cm. Most feed is available from late winter through spring. Feed quality is highest before flowering, with crude protein averaging 24%.

For hay or silage making, cut at early to 50% flowering. Earlier cutting gives higher protein and digestibility whereas later cutting increases yield but reduces feed quality. Typical hay yields in pure vetch crops are between 3–8t DM/ha, depending on rainfall, fertility, and variety. If growing for nitrogen fixation or green manure, allow plants to reach early pod development before soil incorporation.

**Herbicide susceptibility:** Herbicides for post emergence and pre-emergence for broadleaf and grass control are available. Consult your local agronomist for herbicide options. Always check label before herbicide use. Sowing into weed-free paddocks will reduce the need for herbicides.

## ANIMAL PRODUCTION

**Feeding value:** Timok vetch is a reliable source of high levels of crude protein and metabolisable energy. It is ideal for farmers focused on the performance of grazing animals, and those wanting to improve the quality and yield of hay/silage.

**Palatability:** Very palatable.

**Livestock disorders/toxicity:** Non-toxic disorders resulting from feeding common vetch are similar to other legumes or forages with high feed value. These nutritional disorders may include bloat, acidosis, and photosensitivity. As with these types of feed, it is best fed to animals as a mixed diet with lower-quality feeds (e.g. oats/vetch). Although Timok is unlikely to have much rust, rust-infected vetch crops that are used for fodder may induce abortions in pregnant livestock.

Timok vetch has lower toxin levels in grain than woolly pod vetch, but grain should make up less than 20% the diet for pigs. Grain can be fed to ruminant animals (e.g. sheep, cattle) if required.