



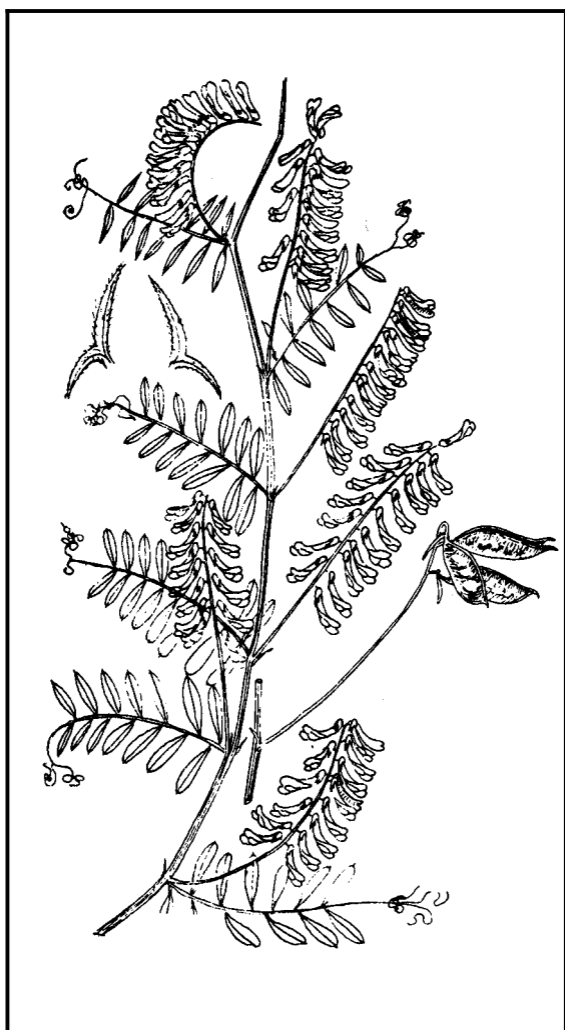
United States Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

Davis, California



'Lana' Woollypod Vetch



'Lana' Woollypod Vetch

(*Vicia dasycarpa* Ten.)

'Lana' woollypod vetch is a cool-season, annual legume originally developed for rangeland use in California. It has since proved to be excellent for erosion control and wildlife food. 'Lana' was released in 1956 by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and the California Agricultural Experiment Station.

Description

'Lana' is a self-seeding, semi-prostrate annual legume with trailing stems up to three feet long. Leaves are feather-like with pinkish purple flowers. Plants will climb on any support or stiff stems of grass and grain. 'Lana' is the earliest maturing vetch commercially available.

Adaptation

'Lana' vetch performs well on light to heavy textured soils when annual rainfall is 14 inches or more. It is adapted to moderately acid to moderately alkaline soils. In California, it can grow in the coastal and central valleys up to about 3000 feet.

Uses

'Lana' woollypod vetch is valuable for improving the quantity and quality of annual range in California. It holds the protein and is a good dry, summer feed. 'Lana' also has been used for revegetating critical areas on road borders, channel banks, dikes and dams. Caution should be used where wildfires are a threat.

'Lana' seed is consumed by most seed-eating birds. It is especially attractive to dove, quail, and pigeons. The vine-like growth provides excellent nesting cover for many ground-nesting birds. It has been used as a cover crop and for green manure, but if not controlled will climb vines and trees.

Establishment

A seedbed should be prepared for the best establishment of 'Lana' vetch. Drilling at 1 inch depth with or without seedbed preparation has been superior to broadcasting. All broadcast seedings should be harrowed or lightly disced after planting.

'Lana' is drilled at 10 pounds per acre and broadcast at 15 pounds per acre. Seed should be inoculated with proper bacteria before planting.

Seed Availability

Foundation seed is available for commercial production through the California Crop Improvement Association and Resource Conservation Districts in California. Breeder seed is maintained by the Lockeford Plant Materials Center. Commercial seed is readily available through various seed companies.

The Soil Conservation Service operates one of its 23 plant materials centers at Lockeford, California, in San Joaquin County. Special emphasis is placed on finding suitable plants for erosion control on soils and sites where it is hard to establish protective vegetative cover.

Plants are significant components of about two-thirds of the conservation practices that farmers, ranchers, and others find essential in solving erosion and sedimentation problems. It is SCS policy to assemble, evaluate, release, and distribute for commercial increase new or improved plant materials needed for resource conservation and development.

SCS assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.