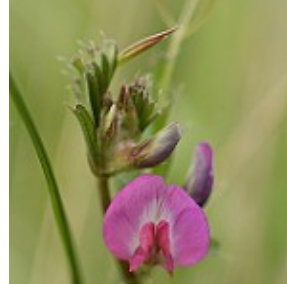


Common Vetch



Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) is a member of the pea family, which is a trailing or climbing annual. It has small purple flowers that turn into pods containing 'peas'. These flowers are normally in pairs. Flowering occurs from May to September. The leaves consist of many paired leaflets and have a branched tendril at the tip which is used to scramble over other plants. Plants typically grow from 6 inches to as high as 4 feet in height.

Common Vetch is able to make its own nitrate's so this makes it useful as a soil fertilising plant. It grows well in grassland, farmland, waste ground and roadside verges. It is present as three sub species, ssp nigra which is native and mainly coastal, ssp sativa which is introduced and ssp segetalis which is native by some authorities.

Common Vetch draws a wide range of insects such as bees and butterflies. This plant looks best growing with other meadow plants such as; Oxeye Daises, Black Knapweed and Field Scabious.

Sowing Time: Spring

