

## Summary

'Timp' Utah Sweetvetch is a legume plant propagated by seed. Utah Sweetvetch provides palatable forage for livestock and big game as well as cover and food for other wildlife. It also provides soil stabilization and beautification.

## Availability

For information about 'Timp' and where to obtain certified seed, please contact Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center.

For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

Upper Colorado  
Environmental Plant Center  
5538 RBC #4  
Meeker, CO 81641  
Phone: 970 878-5003  
Fax: 970 878-5004  
E-mail: [steve.parr@co.nacdn.net](mailto:steve.parr@co.nacdn.net)

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."  
Read about [Civil Rights at the Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

Prepared by Manuel Rosales  
August 2006



## **'TIMP'** **UTAH SWEETVETCH**



---

**Upper Colorado  
Environmental Plant Center  
Meeker, CO**

**'TIMP'**  
**UTAH SWEETVETCH**  
*Hedysarum boreale* Nutt.

**Uses:**

Utah sweetvetch is a legume indigenous to the Intermountain West that has many beneficial characteristics. It's proven to be manageable and productive under cultivated conditions. In association with its compatible *Rhizobium* bacteria, Utah sweetvetch can fix atmospheric nitrogen and improve the nitrogen levels of poor soils and degraded sites.

'Timp' is recommended for use on rangeland, mined land, critical areas and to improve upland wildlife habitats. It provides excellent habitat attributes for sage-grouse. 'Timp' can be used for beautification and diversity in areas of low maintenance and low precipitation, common to xeriscapes and roadsides. It also provides good roadside stabilization as well as beautification.

'Timp' is not recommended for irrigated pastures or hayland where introduced legumes can be effectively used. It has limited use as a legume for cropland rotations.

**Description**

'Timp' is the first release of this species. It is a member of the pea family (Fabaceae). It is a cool-season perennial, herbaceous legume.

This cultivar grows upright from one to two feet tall, is multiple branched, leafy and has abundant attractive pink flowers. It produces many clusters of long constricted seed pods on multiple seed stalks. In some areas it has been called "chain-pod" due to its unusual segmented pods.



Utah sweetvetch seed pods

© Al Schneider  
NPDC@PLANTS Database

**Adaptation**

'Timp' performs well throughout its natural range described as the intermountain region of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho. It grows well in areas with 12 to 18 inches of precipitation. It is adapted to a wide range of soil types. However, it performs best in well drained loamy soils.

**Establishment**

'Timp' is best seeded in the fall throughout its native range. Treated seed (scarification or acidification) has also proven successful when seeded in the spring. It does not compete well with grasses, but competes well with weedy broadleaved plants. It is best established where competition is controlled, and the seed is placed 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep in a firm seedbed.

One pound of Pure Live Seed (PLS) provides 1 to 2 seed per square foot. For seed production, it is recommended to plant 4 to 5 pounds of PLS per acre. 'Timp' can yield 150 PLS pounds of seed per acre.

**Pests and Potential Problems**

Utah sweetvetch is subject to root-rots, seed pod insects and some rust. Chemical insect control may be necessary in seed production fields to prevent infestation of bruchid weevil larvae in developing seed. Rabbits, grasshoppers and crickets can also become problems by reducing stands.

**Area of Origin**

'Timp' Utah Sweetvetch (*Hedysarum boreale* Nutt.) is a seed-propagated cultivar. The genetic material originated from two sources: (1) a site at the base of the Wasatch Mountains and east of Orem County in Utah, and (2) a single-plant selection made by Dr. Robin Cuany.

'Timp' was selected based on its seedling vigor, site adaptability, persistence, seed production, dinitrogen fixation, and stability. It was released in 1994 by Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State University Agricultural Experiment Station, and USDA-Soil Conservation Service.

**Seed Availability**

'Timp' certified seed is available commercially and breeder seed is maintained at Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center.