

Cover Crop Potential Advantages

Winter Cover Crop Types		Potential Advantages				Notes
Functional group	Species	Nitrogen scavenger	P&K scavenger	Attracts beneficials	Quality grazing	
Small grains/Grasses	Cereal rye	Excellent	Very good	Fair	Good	
	Oats	Very good	Fair	Poor	Good	
	Winter wheat	Very good	Very good	Fair	Very good	
	Barley	Very good	Good	Good	Very good	
	Black oats	Very good	Fair	Poor	Good	Coastal plain species
	Triticale	Very good	Good	Poor	Good	
	Ryegrass	Very good	Good	Fair	Excellent	Difficult to terminate
Brassicas (Often part of mixtures)	Radish	Excellent	Very good	Fair	Good	
	Turnip	Good	Very good	Fair	Good	
	Rapeseed / Canola	Very good	Fair	Good	Good	
	Mustard	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Legumes (Often part of mixtures)	Crimson clover	Good	Good	Very good	Excellent	Dixie variety can host some pests
	Austrian winter pea	Fair	Fair	Very good	Very good	30-40lbs in mixtures
	Hairy vetch	Fair	Good	Excellent	Good	

Source: Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition / Southern Cover crop Council

Cover Crop Goals

Winter Cover Crop Types		Goals						
Functional group	Species	Residue persitence	Erosion control	Weed suppression	Soil building	Compaction reduction	Nematode control	Nitrogen production
Small grains/Grasses	Cereal rye	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good	Poor
	Oats	Good	Very good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor
	Winter wheat	Good	Very good	Very good	Very good	Fair	Fair	Poor
	Barley	Excellent	Excellent	Very good	Very good	Fair	Fair	Poor
	Black oats	Good	Very good	Excellent	Very good	Fair	Excellent	Poor
	Triticale	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Very good	Fair	Good	Poor
	Ryegrass	Very good	Very good	Good	Very good	Fair	Good	Poor
Brassicas (Often part of mixtures)	Radish	Fair	Very good	Excellent	Very good	Very good	Very good	Poor
	Turnip	Fair	Very good	Very good	Very good	Very good	Very good	Poor
	Rapeseed / Canola	Good	Very good	Very good	Good	Good	Very good	Poor
	Mustard	Fair	Very good	Very good	Very good	Good	Very good	Poor
Legumes (Often part of mixtures)	Crimson clover	Good	Very good	Very good	Very good	Fair	Fair	Excellent
	Austrian winter pea	Fair	Very good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Hairy vetch	Fair	Good	Good	Very good	Fair	Fair	Excellent

Source: *Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition* / Southern Cover crop Council

Cover Crop Seeding Rates and Planting Dates

Winter Cover Crop Species	Seeding rate (lb/A, for monocultures)			Seeding depth (inches)	Planting date range	
	Drilling	Broadcasting	Aerial seeding		Piedmont	Coastal plain
Cereal rye	60-120 (100)	90-160	150	¾-2	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 15 (Mid-Oct.)
Oats	60-100 (100)	110-120	N/A	½-1½	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)	Sept. 30 - Dec. 15 (Mid-Oct.)
Winter wheat	60-120 (100)	60-150	N/A	½ -1½	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)	Oct. 15 - Nov. 1
Barley	50-100 (100)	80-125	N/A	¾ - 2	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)	Oct. 15 - Nov. 1
Black oats	50-70 (60)	100	N/A	1 - 1½	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)	Mid-October
Triticale	60-100	90-120	N/A	1 - 2	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)	Mid-October
Ryegrass	10-20	20-30	30-50	0 - ½	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)	Mid-October
Radish	8-13 (10)	8-20	N/A	¼ - ¾	Aug.1 - Oct. 1 (Late Sept.)	Aug. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)
Turnip	5-12	8-15	N/A	¼ - ¾	Aug.1 - Oct. 1 (Late Sept.)	Aug. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)
Rapeseed / Canola	5-10	8-14	N/A	¼ - ¾	Aug.1 - Oct. 1 (Late Sept.)	Aug. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)
Mustard	5-12	10-15	N/A	¼ - ¾	Aug.1 - Oct. 1 (Late Sept.)	Aug. 15 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)
Crimson clover	15-20 (18)	20-30	N/A	¼ - ½	Aug. 25 - Oct. 1 (Late Sept.)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)
Austrian winter pea	50-90 (70)	90-100 <i>(not recommended)</i>	N/A	1½ - 3	Aug. 25 - Oct. 1	Sept. 1 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)
Hairy vetch	15-20	25-40	N/A	½ - 1½	Aug. 25 - Oct. 15	Sept. 1 - Oct. 15 (Early Oct.)

Source: *Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition* / Southern Cover crop Council

(optimum rates and dates in bold)

Common Cover Crop Varieties

Winter Cover Crop Types		Common Varieties (Year Released)
Functional group	Species	
Small grains/ Grasses	Cereal rye	Elbon (1956), FL401 (1986), Wrens Abruzzi (1970), Maton II (2007)
	Oats	Coker 277, Graham (CU), Horizon 720
	Winter wheat	AGS 2033 , Pioneer 26R94, SS8641
	Barley	Amaze 10, Secretariat, Thoroughbred, Marouetta
	Black oats	SoilSaver
	Triticale	FL08128 triticale, NF 201, Trical 342
	Ryegrass	Gulf , Big Boss , Attain, Marshall, Credence, Earlyploid
Brassicas (Often part of mixtures)	Radish	Aerifi, Daikon, Smart, Sod buster, Nitro , Nematode, Defender
	Turnip	Purple Top- White G, Jackpot, GO-TRT
	Rapeseed / Canola	Hekip
	Mustard	Florida Broadleaf, Southern Giant Curled
Legumes (Often part of mixtures)	Crimson clover	Dixie (1953) , AU Sunup (2012) , AU Sunrise (2000), AU Robin (1991), Kentucky Pride (2000)
	Austrian winter pea	Fenn, Romack, Specter CAH-11, Survivor, Whistler, Forstmaster
	Hairy vetch	Villana, Lana Woolypod (1960), AU Early Cover, AU Merit, Purple Bounty

Source: Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition / Southern Cover crop Council