

Fall Cover Crops

Cover up for the winter!

Fall harvest offers a number of opportunities to plant cover crops. Use cover crops to keep soil covered and prevent erosion over winter after low residue crops like soybeans, silage corn, edible beans and field vegetables.



Seeding Fall Cover Crops

Fall planted cover crops can be very successful in preventing erosion over winter and in the early spring. But, the growing season is limited so cover crop timing is critical. Because the window of growth is short and cool, the choice of cover crop species in most years is limited. In early to mid-September, oats and barley can be planted with the expectation of good growth. After mid-September, switch to winter wheat, cereal rye or triticale to ensure cover crop growth well into the fall.

Timing	Cover Crop	Rate
Late August/early September – broadcast into soybean at leaf yellowing	Cereal rye or winter wheat	60 to 90 kg/ha
After soybean harvest After processing tomato, potato or other fall harvested vegetable crops	Cereal rye or winter wheat	60 kg/ha
After silage or sweet corn – may be combined with manure application	Cereal rye or winter wheat. Depending upon the area and harvest timing, other options like oats may be appropriate.	40 to 60 kg/ha
After field corn harvest	Cereal rye. Depending on timing of corn harvest, little growth is usually visible in fall. Most years will provide limited spring protection.	60 kg/ha

For more information:

Visit: ontario.ca/covercrops

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Email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Pour de l'information en français:

Visitez le ontario.ca/culturescouvre-sol

ou composez le 1-877-424-1300.