

Marion County SWCD Favorite Garden Cover Crop Mixes

Cover Crop Mix	Rate Oz/100 sq.ft.	Winter Survivability	Planting Window	Soil Health Techniques
Oats	4	Seldom	Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winterkill > Strip furrow or remove mulch > Direct seed or transplant early spring vegetables
Cereal Rye	4	Expected	Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring crimp > Strip furrow > Direct seed or transplant vegetables • Direct seeding of small seeds can be difficult with cereal rye biomass
Oats Crimson Clover (L)	1 1	Seldom Expected	Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Chop/Drop > Supplemental mulch > Transplant vegetables • Spring Chop/Drop > Strip furrow > Direct seed vegetables
Oats Hairy Vetch (L)	1 1	Seldom Expected	Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Chop/Drop > Supplemental mulch > Transplant vegetables • Spring Chop/Drop > Strip furrow > Direct seed vegetables
Cereal Rye Hairy Vetch (L)	1 1	Expected Expected	Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Chop/Drop > Transplant vegetables
Buckwheat	2	Never	Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest early vegetables > Plant buckwheat > Allow to flower > Chop/Drop > Wait 20 days > Plant fall vegetables or fall cover crop
Sorghum-Sudangrass	3	Never	Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest early vegetables > Plant sorghum-sudangrass > Cut regularly throughout season > Allow for regrowth > Winterkill > Plant fall cover crop

(L) = Legumes, capable of producing nitrogen if properly inoculated

Chop/Drop and Crimping is most effective at flowering and anthesis.

Common Indiana termination windows:

Cereal Rye: Late May / Early June

Crimson Clover: Early May

Hairy Vetch: Mid May



Results may vary with soils, climate, and weed pressure.

Contact your local USDA-NRCS or SWCD to learn more.

www.marionswcd.org

