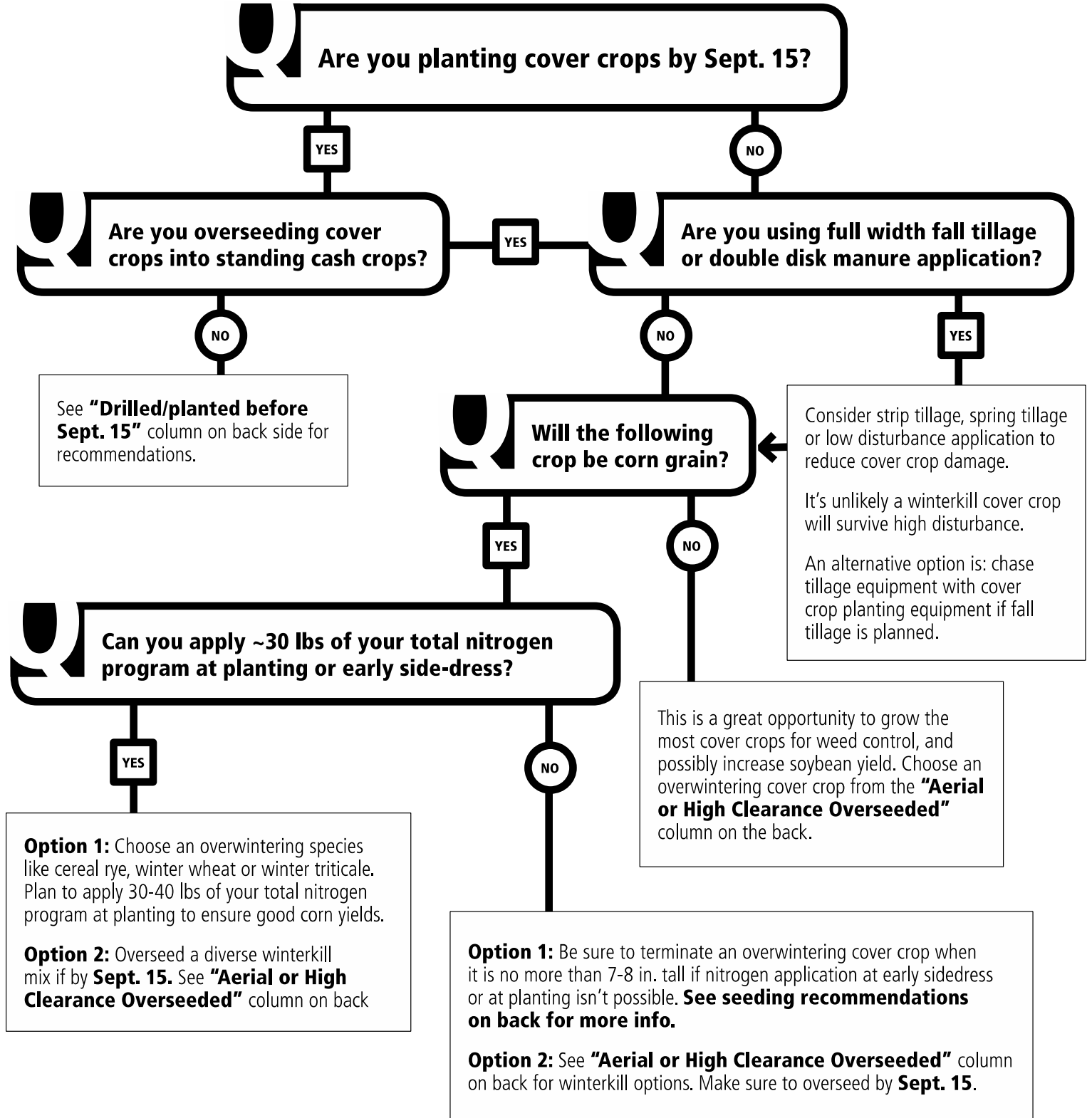




Cover Crop Decision Tree





Seeding Rate Recommendations

based on pure live seed (PLS)

	Drilled/planted before Sept. 15	Aerial or High-clearance overseeded ~Aug. 15-Sept.15	Drilled/planted after Sept. 15
Small Grains			
Winter cereal rye*	~55 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac [†]
Winter triticale**	~55 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac [†]
Winter wheat**	~55 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac [†]
Winter barley***	~60 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac [†]	X
Oats***	~60 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac [†]	X
Cool-season grass			
Annual ryegrass**	~15 lb/ac	~20 lb/ac	X
Brassicas (must be planted with grasses)			
Rapeseed**	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac	X
Brown mustard***	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac [†]	X
Oilseed radish***	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac [†]	X
Turnips***	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac [†]	X
Legumes			
Hairy vetch**	15-20 lb/ac	X	X
Common vetch**	15-20 lb/ac	X	X
Winter lentil**	50 lb/ac	X	X
Winter pea**	60 lb/ac	X	X

When using a mixtures be sure to check applicable seeding rates or talk to your retailer.

* = should not winterkill ** = could winterkill *** = will winterkill X = not recommended for this time and planting

[†] If receiving cost-share through government programs, please see USDA-NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 38: Cover Crop Management at tinyurl.com/IANRCS38CCRecs for NRCS recommended rates.

If growing cover crops for livestock forage, use upper range of seeding rates and see: tinyurl.com/PFICornHerb-CC-Grazing and tinyurl.com/PFISoyHerb-CC-Grazing

Cover Crops and Heat Units

Legumes and brassicas need more heat units than small grains to be effective.

The number of heat units (base 50°F) remaining in Iowa declines dramatically throughout the month of September:

After Aug. 1: 1,385

After Sept. 1: 707

After Oct. 1: 246

Minimum Germination Soil Temperatures

Cereal rye: 34°F

Other small grains: 38°F

Annual ryegrass: 40°F

Mustard/Rapeseed: 40°F

Turnip/Radish: 45°F

Vetches: 60°F

Lentils/Pea: 41°F

Source: Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide: 2nd Edition