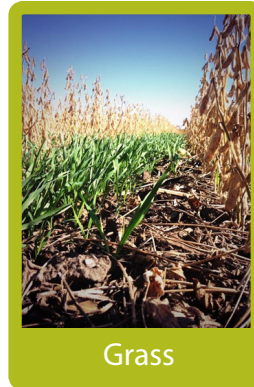
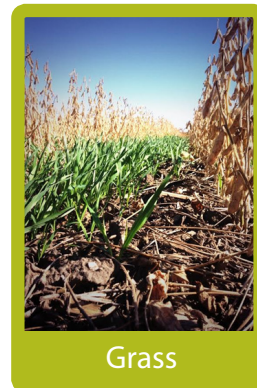


Choosing a Cover Crop Species

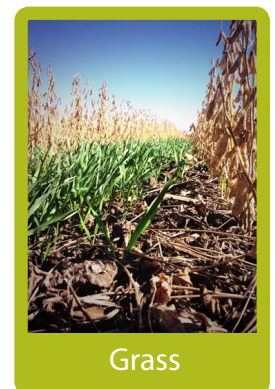
**Drilled/planted
before Sept. 15**



**Aerial or high-clearance overseeded
~Aug. 15 - Sept. 15**



**Drilled/planted
after Sept. 15**





Seeding Rate Recommendations

Aerial or
High-clearance
overseeded
~Aug. 15-Sept.15

Drilled/planted before Sept. 15
Drilled/planted after Sept. 15

<i>Small Grains</i>			
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
<i>Cool-season grass</i>			
Annual ryegrass**	~15 lb/ac	~20 lb/ac	X
<i>Brassicas (must be planted with grasses)</i>			
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
<i>Legumes</i>			
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

* = 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 bit.ly/2dXAGJ3 for NRCS recommended rates.

If growing cover crops for livestock forage, use upper range of seeding rates and see "Corn and Soybean Herbicides: Restrictions When Grazing or Feeding Cover Crops."

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

Source: Iowa Environmental Mesonet

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