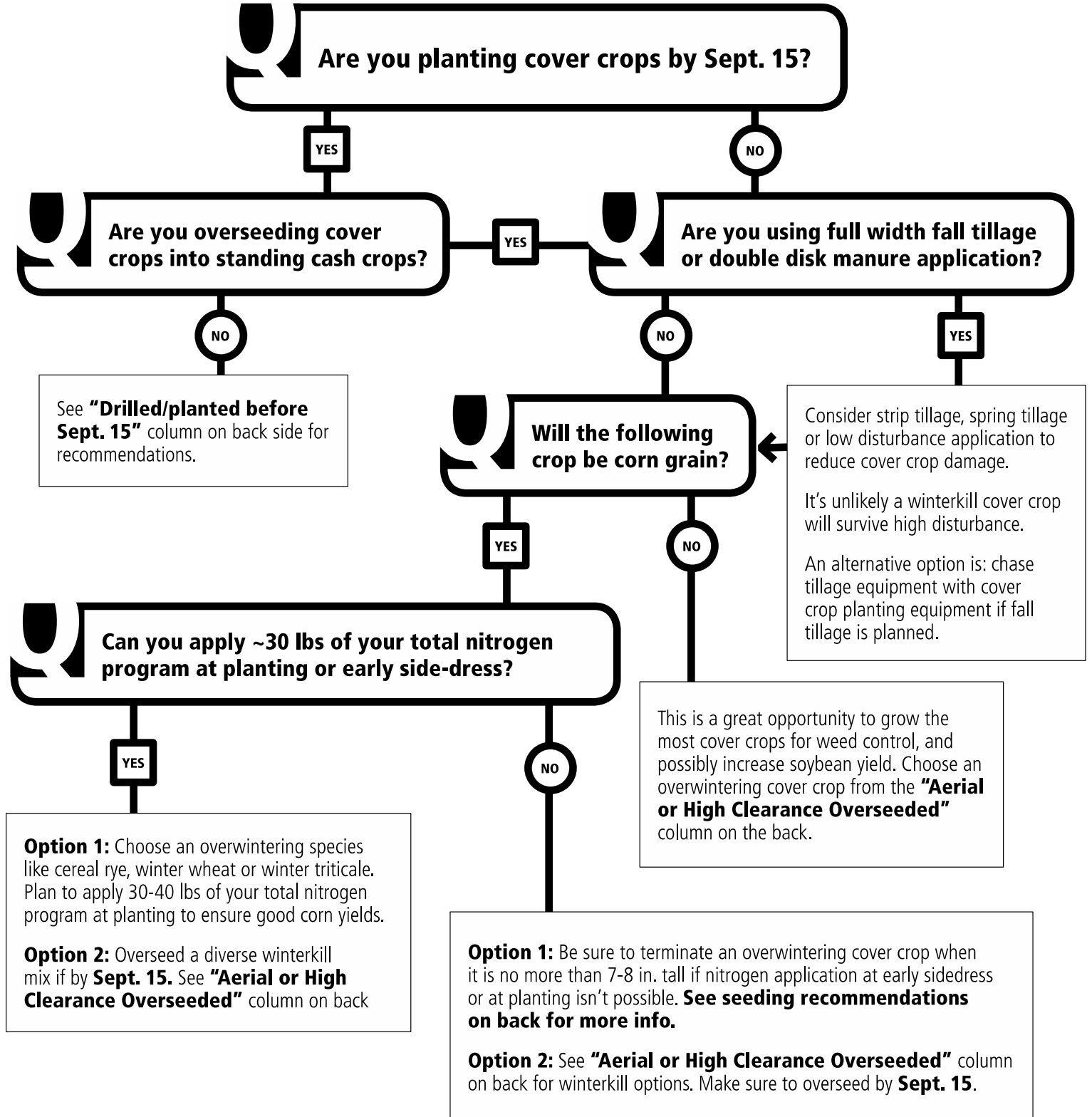




## Cover Crop Decision Tree





# 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
<b>Small Grains</b>			
Winter cereal rye*	~55 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>
Winter triticale**	~55 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>
Winter wheat**	~55 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>
Winter barley***	~60 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>	X
Oats***	~60 lb/ac	60-75 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>	X
<b>Cool-season grass</b>			
Annual ryegrass**	~15 lb/ac	~20 lb/ac	X
<b>Brassicas (must be planted with grasses)</b>			
Rapeseed**	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac	X
Brown mustard***	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>	X
Oilseed radish***	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>	X
Turnips***	3-4 lb/ac	4-6 lb/ac <sup>†</sup>	X
<b>Legumes</b>			
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

<sup>†</sup> If receiving cost-share through government programs, please see USDA-NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 38: Cover Crop Management at [tinyurl.com/IANRCS38CCRecs](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/PFICornHerb-CC-Grazing) and [tinyurl.com/PFISoyHerb-CC-Grazing](http://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