

We've Got You Covered This Fall

Maryland's 2017-2018 Cover Crop Program

Congratulations on your decision to grow cover crops this fall. The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program welcomes you as one of nearly 2,000 cover crop farmers who are working to protect local waterways, reduce soil erosion and improve soil health.

It's time to begin planning your cover crop program. Please review the planting information and payment schedule so that you'll be ready to plant this fall.

To create diversity, eligible cover crop species may be mixed at a rate of 50 percent of the recommended seeding rate for cereal grains (except spring oats) and 50 percent of the recommended seeding rate for radish or legumes. A new three-species mix (small grains, legumes, forage radish) is now eligible for payment. This mix must contain a minimum of 50 percent cereal grains, 25 percent forage radish, and 25 percent legumes. The species with the earliest planting date determines the planting deadline. Mixes containing rye do not qualify for the \$10/acre rye incentive. As a reminder, harvested acres are not eligible for payment this year.

COVER CROP PLANTING DATES AND RATES

Cover Crop	Seeding Rate Per Acre*		Traditional Cover Crop Base Payment	Maryland Planting
	Bushels	Pounds		
Barley	2.50	120	\$45	8/15-10/15
Canola/Rape (Brassica)	0.16	8	\$30	8/15-10/01
Forage Radish		10	\$45	8/15-10/01
Rye	2.00	112	\$55	8/15-11/05
Ryegrass	0.83	20	\$45	8/15-10/15
Spring Oats	3.00	96	\$45	8/15-10/01
Triticale	2.00	112	\$45	8/15-11/05
Wheat or Spelt	2.00	120		8/15-11/05
Must be Planted as Part of a Cereal Grain Mix				
Crimson Clover		20	\$45	8/15-10/01
Vetch		25	\$45	8/15-10/01
Winter Peas		60	\$45	8/15-10/01

*Aerial and aerial ground seeding rates must be increased by 25 percent.

COVER CROP INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

Plant by October 1, 2017:
Add a \$10-\$20/acre early planting bonus

Plant by October 15, 2017:
Add a \$5-\$10/acre early planting bonus

Plant rye (no mixes): Add \$10/acre

MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT: \$75/ACRE

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

All cover crops must be planted by November 5, 2017 and certified with the soil conservation district by November 13, 2017 to qualify for payment.

FIND A CONTRACTOR TO PLANT YOUR COVER CROP

Visit mda.maryland.gov or contact your soil conservation district for a list of contractors who can plant cover crops in your fields this fall. A copy of the Cover Crop Program Requirements and Agreement is also available on the web site.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Allegany	301-777-1747, ext. 3	Harford	410-838-6181, ext. 3
Anne Arundel	410-571-6757	Howard	410-313-0680
Baltimore County	410-527-5920, ext. 3	Kent	410-778-5150, ext. 3
Calvert	410-535-1521, ext. 3	Montgomery	301-590-2855
Caroline	410-479-1202, ext. 3	Prince George's	301-574-5162, ext. 3
Carroll	410-848-8200, ext. 3	Queen Anne's	410-758-3136, ext. 3
Catoctin	301-695-2803, ext. 3	St. Mary's	301-475-8402, ext. 3
Cecil	410-398-4411, ext. 3	Somerset	410-621-9310
Charles	301-638-3028	Talbot	410-822-1577, ext. 3
Dorchester	410-228-5640, ext. 3	Washington County	301-797-6821, ext. 3
Frederick	301-695-2803, ext. 3	Wicomico	410-546-4777, ext. 3
Garrett	301-334-6950, ext. 3	Worcester	410-632-5439, ext. 3