# 2026/2027 Program

# Cover Crop Fact Sheet | Ryegrass 24 Lbs/Bushel

**(also known as Italian Ryegrass)**

Ryegrass (*Lolium*) is a cool-season/winter perennial grass that is fall-planted and used as a cover crop to protect soil from erosion, suppress weeds, fight disease, and scavenge nitrogen.

## Seeding Rates, Planting Dates, and Payment Options

| Planting Method / Timing | Single Species Seeding rate lbs./ac | Minimum Seeding rate in mixes | Planting Deadline | Payment Rates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Aerial-** airplane, helicopter, drones or ground-driven apparatus | 25 | 13 | Oct 10 | $35/ac |
| **No-till or Incorporated** | 24 | 24 | Oct 10 | $50/ac |
| **No-till or Incorporated** | 24 | 24 | Oct 11- Oct 15 | $35/ac |
| **BCSC** (Broadcast/stalk chopping) | 25 | 13 | Oct 15 | $35/ac |
| **BCCP** (Broadcast/cultipacker) | 25 | 13 | Oct 15 | $35/ac |
| **Fall Applied Non-Poultry Manure** | ------ | ----- | ----- | $25/ac |

## Eligible Planting Methods

| | |
|---|---|
| **No-till** | Use a no-till drill in undisturbed ground |
| **Conventional** | Prepare seedbed using tillage (plow, chisel, or disk), then drill the seed |
| **Broadcasting with Light Tillage** | Broadcast seed followed by light disking or a similar method to ensure seed-to-soil contact |
| **Aerial Seeding**- airplane, helicopter, drones or ground-driven apparatus | Seed into a standing approved previous crop and must use aerial seeding rate |
| **BCSC** | Broadcast seed followed by stalk chopping (corn or sorghum only). |
| **BCCP** | Broadcast seed followed by cult packing (corn or sorghum only) |

## Fall Reporting Requirements

**A.** Report planting to SCD within 1 week of completion
**B.** Submit signed seed tags, seed tests, and/or aerial invoices for each species planted
**C.** The deadline to submit fall documentation is **December 1**
**D.** A partial payment for your cover crop is available in the fall upon request.

## Spring Reporting Requirements

**A.** Termination may begin after **March 1**
**B.** Termination should be reported within 2 weeks of completion and by **June 1**
**C.** All acres fall-certified must be reported in the Spring
**D.** Spring claim will be issued based on acres spring certified minus any fall payment
**E.** The Spring payment will be processed after the final satellite imagery review and by July 1

*See the **Program Requirements** document on the website for more detailed information.*

mda.maryland.gov/cover-crops