



2026/2027 Program

Cover Crop Fact Sheet | Hairy Vetch (Only as Part of Mix)

Hairy Vetch (*Vicia villosa*) is a cool-season annual legume that is added to a cover crop mix (50/50 or 50/25/25) and used to protect soil from erosion, suppress weeds, fight disease, and fix nitrogen. When a mix is used, the crop with the earliest planting date will determine the planting deadline. All mixes must contain a cereal grain representing 50% of the mix.

Seeding Rates, Planting Dates, and Payment Options

Planting Method / Timing	Seeding rate lbs./ac (50/50) Mix	Seeding rate lbs./ac (50/25/25) Mix	Planting Deadline	Payment Rates
Aerial- airplane, helicopter, drone, or ground-driven apparatus	16	8	Oct 10	\$50/ac
No-till or Incorporated	10	5	Oct 10	\$65/ac
BCSC (Broadcast/stalk chopping)	16	8	Oct 10	\$50/ac
BCCP (Broadcast/cultipacker)	16	8	Oct 10	\$50/ac
Fall Applied Non-Poultry Manure	-----	-----	Oct 10	\$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, drone, or ground-driven apparatus	Seed into a standing approved previous crop, and must use the 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. Applicants are encouraged to delay termination until the flowering stage to get the most benefit
- C. Termination should be reported within 2 weeks of completion and by **June 1**
- D. All acres fall-certified must be reported in the Spring
- E. Spring claim will be issued based on acres spring certified minus any fall payment
- F. 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