



## 2026/2027 Program

### Cover Crop Fact Sheet | Oats (33 Lbs/Bushel)

Oats (*Avena sativa*) are a fast-growing, winter-kill annual cover crop widely used for rapid biomass production, weed suppression, and reducing soil erosion.

#### 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
<b>Aerial-</b> airplane, helicopter, drone, or ground-driven apparatus	120	60	Oct 10	\$35/ac
<b>No-till or Incorporated</b>	90	45	Oct 10	\$50/ac
<b>BCSC</b> (Broadcast/stalk chopping)	120	60	Oct 10	\$35/ac
<b>BCCP</b> (Broadcast/cultipacker)	120	60	Oct 10	\$35/ac
<b>Fall Applied Non-Poultry Manure</b>	-----	-----	-----	\$25/ac

#### Eligible Planting Methods

<b>No-till</b>	Use a no-till drill in undisturbed ground
<b>Conventional</b>	Prepare seedbed using tillage (plow, chisel, or disk), then drill the seed
<b>Broadcasting with Light Tillage</b>	Broadcast seed followed by light disking or a similar method to ensure seed-to-soil contact
<b>Aerial Seeding-</b> airplane, helicopter, drone, or ground-driven apparatus	Seed into a <b>standing</b> approved previous crop, and must use the aerial seeding rate
<b>BCSC</b>	Broadcast seed followed by stalk chopping (corn or sorghum only).
<b>BCCP</b>	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](http://mda.maryland.gov/cover-crops)