



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	13	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	25	Oct 15	\$35/ac
BCCP (Broadcast/cultipacker)	25	25	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