



It's Time to Start Planning Your COVER CROP

Maryland's 2025-2026 Cover Crop Program

Congratulations on your decision to plant cover crops this fall to protect local waterways, reduce soil erosion, and improve the health of your soil. 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 by **August 1st**.

Key steps to follow:

- ✓ Read the **2025-2026 Program Requirements and Agreement** that was included in your grant approval packet.
- ✓ Check the one-page **QUICK FACTS flyer** for important details.
- ✓ Download the seeding rate calculator (Excel file) from our website at **bit.ly/MDA-CoverCrops**
- ✓ Please remember that this year mixes containing legumes **must be terminated after May 1** to qualify for payment.

COVER CROP PLANTING DATES AND RATES						
APPROVED COVER CROP VARIETIES	SEEDING RATE PER ACRE IN LBS.		BASE PAYMENT FOR TRADITIONAL COVER CROP ONLY	STATEWIDE PLANTING PERIOD FOR THE TRADITIONAL COVER CROP PROGRAM ²	AERIAL PLANTING DEADLINES	BCSC AND BCCP PLANTING DEADLINES
	AERIAL AND BCSC AND BCCP SINGLE SPECIES SEEDING RATES	INCORPORATED SINGLE SPECIES SEEDING RATES ¹				
Oats	120	90	\$35/acre	8/01-10/10	10/10	10/10
Barley	150	90	\$35/acre	8/01-10/15	10/10	10/15
Rye	140	90	\$50/acre	8/01-11/05	10/10	10/15
Triticale	140	90	\$50/acre	8/01-11/05	10/10	10/15
Wheat/Spelt	150	90	\$35/acre	8/01-11/05	10/10	10/15
Ryegrass	25	24	\$35/acre	8/01-10/15	10/10	10/15
Canola/Rape (as part of a mix)	XX	XX	\$50/acre	8/01-10/10	10/10	10/10
Forage Radish (as part of a mix)	XX	XX	\$50/acre	8/01-10/10	10/10	10/10
Clover (as part of a mix)	XX	XX	\$50/acre	8/01-10/10	10/10	10/10
Hairy Vetch (as part of a mix)	XX	XX	\$50/acre	8/01-10/10	10/10	10/10
Winter Peas (as part of a mix)	XX	XX	\$50/acre	8/01-10/10	10/10	10/10

¹ When planting mixes using one of the incorporated planting methods, a minimum of 1 bushel of cereal grain must be used. Please refer to the Cover Crop Mixes Calculator for additional guidance.

² Seeding may begin on 8/01/2025 for all planting options.

2024-2025 COVER CROP PLANTING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS					
TRADITIONAL COVER CROPS PAYMENT OPTIONS	NO-TILL	CONVENTIONAL	BROADCAST WITH LIGHT, MINIMUM OR VERTICAL TILLAGE	AERIAL	BROADCAST STALK CHOP AND BROADCAST CULTIPACKER
Base payment:	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre
Incorporate on or before October 10, add:	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre
Aerial seed into standing corn only by October 10, add:	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$10/acre	\$0/acre
Plant rye, triticale, or a multi-species cover crop, add:	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre
MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT:	\$65/acre	\$65/acre	\$65/acre	\$60/acre	\$50/acre

Certification Requirement and Payment Information

Cover crops must be planted by November 5, 2025 and certified with the local soil conservation district by November 12, 2025 to qualify for full payment.

Find a Contractor to Plant Your Cover Crop

Visit **mda.maryland.gov/conservation** or contact your local soil conservation district for a list of contractors who can plant cover crops in your fields this fall.