

Improve Your Soil. Protect the Bay. Maryland's 2015-2016 Cover Crop Program

Congratulations on your decision to grow cover crops this fall. The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program welcomes you as one of nearly 2,000 cover crop farmers who are working to protect local water quality, reduce soil erosion and increase the productivity of their crop fields. Last year, Maryland farmers planted more than 475,000 acres of cover crops. It was the largest cover crop planting in Maryland history. This year, we are hoping to build on that success.

It's time to begin planning your cover crop program. Please take a moment to review the planting information and payment schedule so that you'll be ready for the fall planting season.

New this year, cover crop mixes containing crimson clover, Austrian winter peas or hairy vetch may be mixed with cereal grains to create diversity. The seeding rate is 60 percent cereal grains and 40 percent legumes or radish. The species with the earliest planting date determines the planting deadline. Mixes containing rye do not qualify for the \$10/acre rye incentive.

COVER CROP PLANTING DATES AND RATES

Cover Crop	Seeding Rate Per Acre*		Traditional Cover Crop Base Payment	Maryland Planting Period
	Bushels	Pounds		
Barley	2.50	120	\$45	8/15-10/15
Canola/Rape (Brassica)	0.16	8	\$30	8/15-09/15
Forage Radish		10	\$45	8/15-09/15
Rye	2.00	112	\$55	8/15-11/05
Ryegrass	0.83	20	\$45	8/15-10/01
Spring Oats	3.00	96	\$45	8/15-10/01
Triticale	2.00	112	\$45	8/15-11/05
Wheat/Spelt	2.00	120	\$45	8/15-11/05
Clover (as part of mix)		20	\$45**	8/15-10/01
Vetch (as part of mix)		25	\$45**	8/15-10/01
Winter Peas (as part of mix)		60	\$45**	8/15-10/01

*Aerial and aerial ground seeding rates must be increased by 25 percent.

**Legume mixes are not eligible for additional incentives.

TRADITIONAL COVER CROP INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

Plant by October 1, 2015: Add a \$10-\$20/acre early planting bonus
Plant by October 15, 2015: Add a \$5-\$10/acre early planting bonus
Plant fields where manure was used in spring: Add \$10/acre
Plant fields with previous corn, tobacco or vegetable crops: Add \$5/acre
Plant rye (no mixes): Add \$10/acre

HARVESTED COVER CROP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Plant by November 5, 2015: \$25/acre
Plant rye as the cover crop: \$35/acre (no mixes)

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

All cover crops must be planted by November 5, 2015. Farmers must certify acres planted with the SCD by November 12, 2015 to qualify for payment.

FIND A CONTRACTOR TO PLANT YOUR COVER CROP

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

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Allegany	301-777-1747, ext. 3	Harford	410-838-6181, ext. 3
Anne Arundel	410-571-6757	Howard	410-313-0680
Baltimore County	410-527-5920, ext. 3	Kent	410-778-5150, ext. 3
Calvert	410-535-1521, ext. 3	Montgomery	301-590-2855
Caroline	410-479-1202, ext. 3	Prince George's	301-574-5162, ext. 3
Carroll	410-848-8200, ext. 3	Queen Anne's	410-758-3136, ext. 3
Catoctin	301-695-2803, ext. 3	St. Mary's	301-475-8402, ext. 3
Cecil	410-398-4411, ext. 3	Somerset	410-651-1575, ext. 3
Charles	301-934-9588, ext. 3	Talbot	410-822-1577, ext. 3
Dorchester	410-228-5640, ext. 3	Washington County	301-797-6821, ext. 3
Frederick	301-695-2803, ext. 3	Wicomico	410-546-4777, ext. 3
Garrett	301-334-6950, ext. 3	Worcester	410-632-5439, ext. 3