

# ENERGIZE YOUR SOIL

## Plant Cover Crops

### Maryland's 2024-2025 Cover Crop Program

Congratulations on your decision to plant cover crops this fall to protect local waterways, reduce soil erosion, and improve soil health.

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.

Two-species cover crop mixes may be planted at a rate of 50% cereal grains (including oats) and 50% radish, legumes, or canola/rape. Three-species mixes (50/25/25) must contain a minimum of 50% eligible small grains. The species with the earliest planting date determines the planting deadline. Drones are an aerial seeding option and mixes containing rye or triticale or a multi-species cover crop qualify for a \$20/acre incentive 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 <sup>1</sup> | AERIAL PLANTING DEADLINES | BCSC AND BCCP PLANTING DEADLINES |
|                                     | AERIAL <sup>3</sup> AND BCSC AND BCCP SEEDING RATES | INCORPORATED SEEDING RATES <sup>4</sup> |  |   |                           |                                  |
| Canola/Rape (Brassica)              | 10  | 6                                       | \$35.00 <sup>2</sup>                         | 08/01-10/01   | 10/01                     | 10/01                            |
| Forage Radish                       | 12.5  | 7.5                                     | \$40.00 <sup>5</sup>                         | 08/01-10/01   | 10/01                     | 10/01                            |
| Oats                                | 120   | 72                                      | \$50.00                                      | 08/01-10/01   | 10/01                     | 10/01                            |
| Barley                              | 150   | 90                                      | \$50.00                                      | 08/01-10/15   | 10/10                     | 10/15                            |
| Rye                                 | 140   | 84                                      | \$70.00                                      | 08/01-11/15   | 10/10                     | 10/15                            |
| Triticale                           | 140   | 84                                      | \$70.00                                      | 08/01-11/15   | 10/10                     | 10/15                            |
| Wheat/Spelt                         | 150   | 90                                      | \$50.00                                      | 08/01-11/15   | 10/10                     | 10/15                            |
| Ryegrass                            | 25  | 15                                      | \$40.00 <sup>5</sup>                         | 08/01-10/15   | 10/10                     | 10/15                            |
| Clover (as part of mix)             | 25  | 15                                      | \$70.00                                      | 08/01-10/01   | 10/01                     | 10/01                            |
| Hairy Vetch (as part of mix)        | 31.25   | 20                                      | \$70.00                                      | 08/01-10/01   | 10/01                     | 10/01                            |
| Winter Peas (as part of mix)        | 75  | 45                                      | \$70.00                                      | 08/01-10/01   | 10/01                     | 10/01                            |

<sup>1</sup>Seeding may begin on 08/01/2024 for all planting options.

<sup>2</sup>Please note that the base payment for planting canola/rape is \$35.00, no reduction in payment when it is part of a mix.

<sup>3</sup>This seeding rate for aerial and non-incorporated planting methods has been calculated at a rate that is a 25% increase to the standard seeding rate.

<sup>4</sup>The seeding rate listed above represents the seeding rate for all incorporated planting methods and has been calculated at 25% less than the rates used in previous years.

<sup>5</sup>Please note that the base payment for Forage Radish or Ryegrass as a single species is \$40/ac.

| 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:   | \$50/acre        | \$50/acre        | \$50/acre   | \$50/acre        | \$50/acre                                      |
| Plant by October 10, <b>add:</b>  | \$25/acre        | \$25/acre        | \$25/acre   | \$0/acre         | \$0/acre                                       |
| Plant between October 11 and November 5, <b>add:</b>                                      | \$10/acre        | \$10/acre        | \$10/acre   | \$0/acre         | \$0/acre                                       |
| Aerial seed into standing corn on or before September 10, <b>add:</b>                     | \$0/acre         | \$0/acre         | \$0/acre  | \$10/acre        | \$0/acre                                       |
| Plant rye, triticale, or a multi-species cover crop, <b>add:</b>                          | \$20/acre        | \$20/acre        | \$20/acre   | \$20/acre        | \$20/acre                                      |
| <b>MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT:</b>  | <b>\$95/acre</b> | <b>\$95/acre</b> | <b>\$95/acre</b>                                  | <b>\$80/acre</b> | <b>\$70/acre</b>                               |
| <b>Flat rate:</b> For cover crops incorporated into fields November 6 through November 15 | \$40/acre        | \$40/acre        | \$40/acre   | \$0/acre         | \$0/acre                                       |

#### Certification Requirement and Payment Information

- Cover crops must be planted by November 5, 2024 and certified with the local soil conservation district by November 12, 2024 to qualify for full payment.
  - Late-planted cover crops must be certified by November 22, 2024. All follow-up documentation must be submitted to the local soil conservation district by December 2, 2024 to be eligible for payment.
- NOTE: Termination of late planted cover crops must take place after May 1.

#### Find a Contractor to Plant Your Cover Crop

Visit [mda.maryland.gov/conservation](http://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.