



OATS

Producers may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do they know the benefits of each species? Each month a different cover crop species will be highlighted to provide producers with information needed to successfully grow cover crops or alternative forages on their operation.

AT A GLANCE

- Versatile cover crop can be used as a nurse crop to establish a forage species or for grain production
- Cereal grain used for human and livestock consumption as well as a cover crop
- Can be paired with most other cover crop species to make a perfect mix whether you're a beginner or an expert growing cover crops

PLANTING DETAILS

- Oats can be seeded in early spring and used as a nurse crop to help establish forage species or for grain production.
- When planted in late summer or early fall, they grow enough to be used as a forage.
- Can be planted anytime between April and September based on intended use
- Seeding rates will vary based on use & seeding method but typically range from 30-60lbs/acre.

ABOUT OATS

- Cool-season grass that originated in the Fertile Crescent, located in the Middle East.
- Common oat derived from wild oats which is a pesty weed in crop production.
- Oats are a cereal grain used for human and livestock consumption, as well as a cover crop.
- When temperatures decline and sunshine decreases, oats will slow growth and eventually winterkill when temps drop below 20 degrees.

BENEFITS

Flexible Cover Crop

Can be paired with most other cover crop species to make a perfect mix for both beginners & cover crop experts.

Soil Health

Oats are commonly used to reduce erosion, saving nutrients from be carried away by wind or water. With a large amount of biomass accumulated, oats will suppress weeds. They're also a host for mycorrhizal fungi.



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