



WINTER WHEAT

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

- Great for soil and erosion reduction
- Versatility for cover crop, forage, nurse crop, and grain usage
- Optimal crude protein levels
- Biomass is easily incorporated into the soil

PLANTING DETAILS

- Plant in mid-July to mid-October
- Seeding rates vary
- Plant a minimum of 50 lbs/acre depending on use
- Planting depth should be 1"

ABOUT WINTER WHEAT

- First used as a grain crop in the 19th century
- Today winter wheat is used for grain, forage and cover crop
- Planted in fall and germinates before vernalization begins
- Underground biomass increases in spring as it greens up
- The value of winter wheat as a primary forage is currently being researched

BENEFITS

Erosion Reduction and Soil Health

Winter wheat develops large fibrous root structures, reducing erosion. Large amounts of aboveground biomass make it suitable for soil health building.

Nurse Crop

Winter wheat is commonly used as a nurse crop for alfalfa and clover.

Crude Protein

The slow maturing nature of winter wheat optimizes crude protein levels in the boot stage and later into the growing season.



**MORRISON SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
<https://morrisonswcd.org/>