



OATS

AVENA SATIVA

Cover crops are used in farms and gardens as a part of crop rotation. They increase soil organic matter, cycle nutrients, suppress weeds, create mulch, alleviate compaction, and protect and feed the vital soil ecosystem.

Cover crops are a key tool in a soil health system:

- Minimize disturbance - Maximize soil cover -
- Maximize biodiversity - Maximize continuous living roots -



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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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Planting Instructions

1. Plant oats after vegetable harvest or under mature crops before mid-September for adequate growth.
2. Ensure planting area is weed-free prior to planting.
3. Spread seeds by hand as evenly as possible.
4. Rake or lightly cultivate seeds in ½" to 1" deep for good seed-to-soil contact.
5. Keep ground moist until germination.
6. Oats will die off in the winter. Leave to decompose in the garden as a natural mulch. Transplant spring vegetables into leftover plant material, or rake aside for direct seeding.

<u>Seeding Information</u>	
Northern IN Planting Dates	August 15 - September 15
Southern IN Planting Dates	August 15 - September 30
Seeding Rate	4 oz / 100 square feet
Seeding Rate (in a mix)	1 oz / 100 square feet
Seeding Depth	½" to 1"
Growth Height	12" to 24"



For more information, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit:
marionswcd.org/plantcovercrops

