

Indiana Cover Crop Table for Small Farms and Gardens

Species	Type	Life Cycle	Winter Survival	Termination Methods ³					Growth Height	C:N at Maturity
				Freeze	Tillage	Mow	Crimp ²	Tarp		
Barley	Grass	Winter Annual	Expected		•	•	•	•	Medium-Tall	30:1
Buckwheat	Nonlegume Forb	Summer Annual	Never	•	•	•		•	Medium	20:1
Clover, White/Ladino	Legume	Short-Lived Perennial	Expected		•			•	Short	15:1
Clover, Balansa	Legume	Cool Season Annual	Expected		•	?	?	•	Short	15:1
Clover, Berseem	Legume	Summer Annual	Never	•	•			•	Short	15:1
Clover, Crimson	Legume	Winter Annual	Expected		•			•	Short	15:1
Clover, Red	Legume	Short-Lived Perennial	Expected		•			•	Short	15:1
Flax	Nonlegume Forb	Summer Annual	Short	?	•	?	?	•	Short	19:1
Hemp, Sunn	Legume	Summer Annual	Never	•	•	•	?	•	Tall	20:1
Kale	Brassica	Cool Season Annual	Seldom or Expected ¹		•			•	Medium	19:1
Millet, Japanese	Grass	Summer Annual	Never	•	•			•	Tall	48:1
Millet, Pearl	Grass	Summer Annual	Never	•	•			•	Tall	48:1
Oats	Grass	Cool Season Annual	Seldom	•	•	•		•	Medium-Tall	30:1
Pea, Field	Legume	Winter Annual	Rarely	•	•	•		•	Medium-Tall	25:1
Pea, Winter	Legume	Winter Annual	Seldom		•	•		•	Medium-Tall	25:1
Pea, Cow	Legume	Summer Annual	Never	•	•	•		•	Medium-Tall	20:1
Phacelia	Nonlegume Forb	Cool Season Annual	Seldom	•	•	?	?	•	Medium	25:1
Radish (Oil Seed)	Brassica	Cool Season Annual	Seldom	•	•			•	Medium	19:1
Rapeseed	Brassica	Winter Annual or Cool Season Annual	Seldom or Expected ¹		•			•	Medium	19:1
Rye, Winter Cereal	Grass	Cool Season Annual	Expected		•	•	•	•	Medium-Tall	37:1
Ryegrass, Annual	Grass	Winter Annual	Seldom or Expected ¹		•			•	Medium	25:1
Sorghum-sudangrass	Grass	Summer Annual	Never	•	•			•	Tall	52:1
Soybean	Legume	Summer Annual	Never	•	•	•		•	Medium	35:1
Sudangrass	Grass	Summer Annual	Never	•	•			•	Medium	50:1
Sunflower	Nonlegume Forb	Summer Annual	Never	•	•	•		•	Tall	35:1
Triticale, Winter	Grass	Winter Annual	Expected		•	•	•	•	Medium-Tall	35:1
Turnips / Pasja	Brassica	Cool Season Annual	Seldom	•	•			•	Medium	19:1
Vetch, Hairy	Legume	Winter Annual or Cool Season Annual	Expected		•	•	•	•	Medium	11:1
Wheat, Winter	Grass	Winter Annual	Expected		•	•	•	•	Medium-Tall	35:1

[?]Data unknown

²Crimping only may not fully terminate legumes

¹Variety Dependent

³If using chemicals, ensure proper use and species compatibility

Indiana Cover Crop Table for Small Farms and Gardens

Species	Type	Min. Germ Temp ⁴	Optimum Depth (inches)	Surface Broadcast Potential	Seeding Rate (Oz/100 sq.ft.)			General Guidelines for Seeding Rates and Mixes
					Low	Normal	High	
Barley	Grass	35F	¾-1½	+	1.5	3.0	6.1	<p>Rates are based on the broadcast seeding method and provided in ounces (weight) per 100 square feet. Normal rate is based on a single species 100% canopy cover in optimum/average conditions. Low rate is half and high rate is double the normal rate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase rates if using a seeding method that is less assured of good seed to soil contact. • Increase rates if a primary purpose is weed control. • Increase rates as you reach the end of the optimum seeding window. • Increase rates as you move north due to fewer days to achieve desired biomass. • Increase rates if you plan to terminate a cover crop earlier than maturity. • Decrease rates as you increase soil fertility. • Decrease rates within a more diverse seed mix. • Pre-inoculated legume seed weighs about one-third more than raw seed. Increase rate by one-third to plant the same amount of seed. • Certain species are highly competitive against other species in a mix, including forage radish, oats, sorghum-sudangrass, and cereal rye. Use low rates of these species to prevent them from dominating a balanced mixture. • Legume components of a mixture, which tend to be weak competitors, are more safely kept near normal or high rates to ensure establishment. • Seeding rate for functionally redundant species can be reduced by the number of redundant species in the mix.
Buckwheat	Nonlegume Forb	50F	½-1	-	0.5	1.0	2.0	
Clover, White/Ladino	Legume	42F	¼-½	+	0.8	1.5	3.0	
Clover, Balansa	Legume	42F	¼-½	+	0.1	0.1	0.3	
Clover, Berseem	Legume	42F	¼-½	+	0.2	0.5	1.0	
Clover, Crimson	Legume	42F	¼-½	+	0.2	0.4	0.9	
Clover, Red	Legume	41F	¼-½	+	0.1	0.2	0.5	
Flax	Nonlegume Forb	?	?	?	0.2	0.3	0.7	
Hemp, Sunn	Legume	68F	½-1½	-	0.9	1.8	3.7	
Kale	Brassica	40F	¼-½	-	0.1	0.1	0.3	
Millet, Japanese	Grass	65F	½-¾	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Millet, Pearl	Grass	65F	½-1	-	0.1	0.1	0.2	
Oats	Grass	38F	½-1	+	1.2	2.3	4.7	
Pea, Field	Legume	41F	1-1½	-	1.1	2.2	4.4	
Pea, Winter	Legume	41F	1-1½	-	1.1	2.2	4.4	
Pea, Cow	Legume	58F	1-1½	-	0.9	1.8	3.5	
Phacelia	Nonlegume Forb	37F	¼-½	?	0.1	0.1	0.2	
Radish (Oil Seed)	Brassica	45F	½-¾	+	0.1	0.3	0.5	
Rapeseed	Brassica	41F	¼-½	+	0.1	0.1	0.3	
Rye, Winter Cereal	Grass	34F	¾-1½	+	1.0	2.0	4.1	
Ryegrass, Annual	Grass	40F	⅛-½	+	0.3	0.6	1.2	
Sorghum-sudangrass	Grass	65F	½-1½	-	0.7	1.5	2.9	
Soybean	Legume	50F	1-1½	-	1.7	3.4	6.8	
Sudangrass	Grass	65F	½-1	-	0.4	0.7	1.5	
Sunflower	Nonlegume Forb	65F	1-1½	-	0.3	0.7	1.4	
Triticale, Winter	Grass	38F	¾-1½	+	1.1	2.3	4.6	
Turnips / Pasja	Brassica	45F	¼-½	+	0.1	0.1	0.3	
Vetch, Hairy	Legume	50F	½-1½	+	0.9	1.7	3.5	
Wheat, Winter	Grass	38F	¾-1½	+	1.2	2.4	4.9	

⁴Minimum soil germination temperature