

Green Manure Crops

Solid Waste Management Fact Sheet No. 11

	Seeding Rate Spring & Summer Seeding (lbs./1000 sq. ft.)	Depth to Cover Seed (in.)	Comments
Legumes			
Alfalfa	1	1/2	Has deep roots and is excellent for mulch. Needs a pH of 6 or higher. Should grow a full season.
Beans, Soy	5	1 1/2	Can be turned under early or be allowed to mature and be harvested.
Clover, Alsike	1/2	1/2	Good for areas too wet or acid for red clover.
Clover, Red	1/2	1/2	Needs a pH of 6 or higher. Should grow a full season. Can be cut for mulch.
Clover, White	1/2	1/2	Needs a pH of 6 or higher. The giant variety, Ladino, is best for green manure.
Cowpeas	5	1 1/2	Fast-growing crop for hot, dry weather. Drought resistant.
Sweet clover	1/2	1/2	Similar to white variety but does better under dry conditions.
Pea, winter	5	1 1/2	Needs well-drained soil with pH above 5.5. Can be spring-planted.
Vetch, Hairy	1 1/2	3/4	The most winter-hardy vetch and the best for most situations.
Nonlegumes			
Barley	2 1/2	3/4	Prefers pH 7 to 8. Spring varieties preferred.
Kale	1/2	1/2	Plant in late summer and it will grow on into the winter. Can be eaten anytime.
Oats	2 1/2	1	Tolerates a wide pH range. Not good on heavy clay. Spring varieties preferred.
Rye	2 1/2	3/4	Winter rye is the most hardy of the small grains and a very important winter cover crop.
Ryegrass, Annual	1	3/4	One of the best winter cover crops. Grows rapidly in the fall. Dies before spring and is easy to till under.
Wheat	1 1/2	3/4	Prefers pH 7 to 8.5 and fertile soil. Winter variety is very cold-hardy.

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