

## Green Manure Crops

### *Solid Waste Management Fact Sheet No. 11*

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

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EP-11

May 1995

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