



Common Oats- Organic Seed

Common Oats (*Avena sativa*)

Benefits: Common oats are an annual grass that grow quickly in warmer temperatures, providing high biomass and large root system, but that die off in NE winters. Thus they provide a good low investment/low risk option, since there is no need to worry about how to terminate the crop in the spring. They provide a fall live cover and serve as a dead mulch in the spring that can be tilled in or planted into directly. Oats rank highly (though not quite as high as Winter Rye) for their ability to reduce erosion and compaction, increase soil health and organic matter, utilize (scavenge) excess nutrients, and suppress weeds. Oats tolerate acidic soils better than any other grain crop. The forage is an excellent feed for cows and horses; but are too high in fiber for hogs. **Planting time and rate:** Common oats should be planted no later than the end of September. Earlier fall planting (as early as late August) will provide optimal benefit from fall growth. Seed at 100–200#/acre, 2.5–5#/1000 sq ft. Apply at higher end of rate range for later planting. **Termination:** Common Oats will not survive winters in New England, so there is no need to worry about how to terminate them in the spring. **Companion Covers:** Can be grown with our [crimson clover](#), with reduced seeding rate for optimal co-establishment. Only clover will come back in the spring and need to be terminated. Information adapted from: <http://www.fedcoseeds.com/ogs/farm-seed>, Managing cover crops profitably, 2008 book edited by A. Clark, Diane Publishing.

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SKU: common-oats-organic-seed

Price: \$2.00 per pound

Categories: [Cover Crop Seed](#)

Product Description



Winter Rye Seed

Winter Rye (*Secale cereale*) Benefits: Winter Rye is the most popular winter cover in the Northeast. It is a winter annual grass that grows up to 5', and is extremely frost hardy, adaptable and competitive. It develops an extensive root system in relatively short amount of time, which is why it ranks highly for its benefits to reduce erosion and compaction, increase soil health and organic matter, utilize (scavenge) excess nutrients, and suppress weeds. The deep extensive root system helps prevent compaction and improves soil tilth. Tolerates pH from 5.0–8.0. Planting time and rate: Best planted in early September to give good growth before winter dormancy, but may be planted at higher seeding rates as late as mid-October. Sold by the pound-seed at 100–200#/acre, 3–5#/1000 sq ft. Apply at higher end of rate range for later planting. Note: if planted later in the fall, you may have to wait longer into the spring to effectively terminate it if waiting until plant maturity to terminate (See Mirsky et al. 2009, figure 4 <http://acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2134/agronj2009>

Termination: The best way to terminate Rye in the spring is a subject of debate. Decomposed residue exudes allelopathic compounds that inhibit weed growth; and may also inhibit germination and growth of subsequent crops, so some say it should be incorporated into soil at least 3 weeks before planting. Direct-seeded crops with small seeds are more susceptible to rye's effects than large-seeded crops and transplants. In some cases, it will come back after first being tilled in and requires multiple tillings to die completely, Drier soil conditions for tilling increase its likelihood of termination. Many farmers terminate it with herbicide before planting into it or tilling it into the soil. The flowering stems can simply be broken or mowed as/after they produce pollen, and this will kill the plant as well. This strategy is ideal for farmers practicing no till methods, or for gardeners hoping to leave residues as a mulch. Companion Covers: Can be grown with our [crimson clover](#) but should be planted before October and with reduced seeding rate for optimal co-establishment.

Information adapted from:

<http://www.fedcoseeds.com/ogs/farm-seed>,
<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/winterrye.html>,
<http://extension.psu.edu/cover-crop-rollers-for-northeastern-grain-production>, and Managing cover crops profitably, 2008 book edited by A. Clark, Diane Publishing.

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SKU: winter-rye-seed

Price: \$1.50 per pound

Categories: [Cover Crop Seed](#)

Product Description



Crimson Clover Seed

Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*) and Rhizobium inoculant Benefits: This legume cover crop grows quickly even in cool weather, which makes it one of the best legumes for colder climates like the NE. It can form a dense ground cover and root system which helps prevent erosion, increase soil organic matter, and suppress weeds. It provides a source of nitrogen, via its association with nitrogen fixing bacteria, and if grown to flowering stage it also provides pollinator habitat. It is not persistent when removed, compared to winter rye or hairy vetch. It grows up to 18", and flourishes in most well-drained soils. Planting time and rate: Best planted by early September, mid-September at the latest. The later it is planted, the less resilient it will be to winter frosts. Seed at 25-50#/acre, 1/2-2#/1000 sq ft. Apply at higher end of rate range for later planting. Rhizobium inoculant: N-Dure Alfalfa & Clover Inoculant provides a source population for the nitrogen-fixing bacteria Rhizobium, which forms an association with clover roots to allow them to create their own nitrogen source. Clover seeds will be provided with the correct amount of inoculant for the order of seed. It should be added to the seeds and moistened before planting. Termination: Susceptible to winter-kill (Survives a 28° frost, dies at hard frost), though it can survive MA winters especially if planted by September 1. Thus it makes a good dead mulch in spring. If alive in spring, mowing after initial bud stage will kill it. Surviving plants can also be tilled in, manually removed (weeded), or raked out, though if tilled in early stages of growth it may regrow. Companion Covers: Grows well with most cereal grain cover crops, like our [Winter Rye](#) or [Oats](#). Information adapted from: <http://www.fedcoseeds.com/ogs/farm-seed>, Managing cover crops profitably, 2008 book edited by A. Clark, Diane Publishing.

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SKU: crimson-clover-seed

Price: \$3.50 per pound

Categories: [Cover Crop Seed](#)

Product Description
