

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

COVER CROP

CODE 340

SPECIFICATIONS

TABLE 1 – Single Species Cover Crops for North Carolina

*All seeding rate recommendations are for pure live seed (PLS)

Cover Crop <i>*Summer Cover Crops</i>	Seeding Rate lbs/ac (PLS) <i>Drill Minimum Rate</i>	Ideal Planting Range by Physiographic Region		
		Coastal Plain	Piedmont	Mountains
GRASSES/NONLEGUMES				
Annual Ryegrass	20	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Barley	60	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Little Barley	35	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
<i>*Millet (Pearl)</i>	15	May 1 - June 1	May 1 – June 15	May 15 – June 15
<i>*Millet (Proso)</i>	20	May 1 - June 1	May 1 – June 15	May 15 – June 15
Oats	70	Sept 1 – Nov 1	Aug 25 – Oct 15	Jul 25-Sept 30
Rye (Cereal)	70	Sept 1 – Nov 1	Aug 25 – Oct 15	Jul 25-Sept 30
<i>*Sorghum-Sudan (Sudax)</i>	25	May 1 - June 1	May 1 – June 15	May 15 – June 15
Triticale	70	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Wheat	70	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
<i>*Buckwheat</i>	50	May 1 - June 15	May 15 - Jul 1	June 1 - Jul 15
Radish (forage, oilseed, Daikon)	8	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 – Oct 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15
Mustards	8	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 – Oct 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15
Phacelia	7	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 – Oct 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15
Rapeseed/Canola	4	Feb 15 – Mar1 Sept 1 – Oct 15	Feb 15 – Mar 15 Aug 1 – Oct 1	Mar 1 – Apr 30 Jul 15 – Sept 15
<i>*Sunflower</i>	10	May 1 - June 15	May 15 - Jul 1	June 1 - Jul 15
<i>*Sunn Hemp</i>	15	May 1 - June 15	May 15 - Jul 1	June 1 - Jul 15
Turnip	5	Feb 15 – Mar1 Sept 1 – Oct 15	Feb 15 – Mar 15 Aug 1 – Oct 1	Mar 1 – Apr 30 Jul 15 – Sept 15
LEGUMES				
Arrowleaf Clover	5	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Austrian Winter Pea	35	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
<i>*Cowpea</i>	30	May 1 - June 15	May 15 - Jul 1	June 1 - Jul 15
Crimson Clover	15	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Hairy Vetch	15	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
<i>*Soybeans</i>	50	May 1 - June 15	May 15 - Jul 1	June 1 - Jul 15

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**NRCS, NC
October 2014**

TABLE 2 – Winter Cover Crop Mixes for North Carolina

*All seeding rate recommendations are for pure live seed (PLS)

Cover Crop	Seeding Rate lbs/ac (PLS) <i>Drill Minimum Rate</i>	Ideal Planting Range by Physiographic Region		
		Coastal Plain	Piedmont	Mountains
Cereal Rye Daikon Radish	55 4	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Cereal Rye Crimson Clover	50 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Cereal Rye Crimson Clover Daikon Radish	35 10 2	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Austrian Winter Pea Crimson Clover Hairy Vetch	25 10 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Cereal Rye Austrian Winter Pea Crimson Clover Daikon Radish	35 25 10 2	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Cereal Rye Crimson Clover Hairy Vetch Daikon Radish	35 10 10 2	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Cereal Rye Austrian Winter Pea Crimson Clover Hairy Vetch	40 30 10 10	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Cereal Rye Triticale Oats Crimson Clover Daikon Radish	30 15 10 10 2	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Triticale Austrian Winter Pea Hairy Vetch Rapeseed/Canola Purple Top Turnip Phacelia	60 30 15 5 5 5	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15
Cereal Rye Annual Ryegrass Austrian Winter Pea Crimson Clover Hairy Vetch Radish Turnip	15 3 10 2 3 1 1	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Aug 25 – Oct 1	Jul 25-Sept 15

TABLE 3 – Summer Cover Crop Mixes for North Carolina

*All seeding rate recommendations are for pure live seed (PLS)

Cover Crop	Seeding Rate lbs/ac (PLS) <i>Drill Minimum Rate</i>	Ideal Planting Range by Physiographic Region		
		Coastal Plain	Piedmont	Mountains
Cowpea	35	<i>May 1 - June 15</i>	<i>May 15 - Jul 1</i>	<i>June 1 - Jul 15</i>
Soybeans	35			
Sorghum-Sudan	25	<i>May 1 - June 1</i>	<i>May 1 - June 15</i>	<i>May 15 - June 15</i>
Buckwheat	15			
Cowpea	35			
Pearl Millet	15	<i>May 1 - June 1</i>	<i>May 1 - June 15</i>	<i>May 15 - June 15</i>
Buckwheat	15			
Cowpea	35			
Pearl Millet	1	<i>May 1 - June 15</i>	<i>May 15 - Jul 1</i>	<i>June 1 - Jul 15</i>
Proso Millet	2			
Sorghum-Sudan	4			
Soybean	15			
Cowpea	20			
Sunflower	1			
Radish	1			
Oats	10	<i>May 1 - June 15</i>	<i>May 15 - Jul 1</i>	<i>June 1 - Jul 15</i>
Austrian Winter Pea	5			
Cowpea	3			
Pearl Millet	3			
Sunn Hemp	2			
Radish	1			

GENERAL NOTES:

*IDEAL PLANTING DATE RANGES AND PROVIDED SEEDING RATES SHOULD BE USED AS GUIDANCE IN DEVELOPING ESTABLISHMENT DATES AND RATES FOR EACH PLANNING UNIT. DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING UNIT SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PURPOSE OF THE COVER CROP, CROP ROTATION (HARVEST AND PLANTING DATES OF CASH CROPS), AND LOCAL CLIMATE AND SOILS CONDITIONS. PLANTING OUTSIDE OF THE IDEAL PLANTING RANGES MAY REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN SEEDING RATES TO MEET THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE PRACTICE.

*OTHER SPECIES, INCLUDING NATIVE ANNUALS, NOT INCLUDED IN THESE TABLES MAY BE USED IF THE COVER PROVIDED WILL BE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE PRACTICE.

*WHEN LEGUMES ARE SEEDED WITH GRASSES, USE THE SEEDING DATES FOR THE GRASSES.

*TO INSURE GOOD STAND ESTABLISHMENT, SEEDING RATES SHOULD BE INCREASED AT LEAST 15% WHEN BROADCAST SEEDED AND 30% WHEN AERIALY SEEDED.