

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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