

COVER CROP SEEDING WINDOWS

Table 2: SEEDING WINDOWS FOR COVER CROPS IN INDIANA

Plant Species	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	De.-Feb.
	Annual Ryegrass	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Cereal Rye						Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Winter Wheat							Green	Green	Green	Green
Spring Oats	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Winter Triticale						Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Hairy Vetch				Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Field/Winter Peas					Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Cow Peas					Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Non-dormant Alfalfa					Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Berseem Clover				Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Crimson Clover				Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Red Clover ²	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Brassicas (Rape, Canola, Turnips)						Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Oil Seed Radish (daikon)						Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Sorghum Sudangrass ³			Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Millet(Japanese, Pearl)			Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Buckwheat				Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

Legend	
	Suitable seeding dates for all of Indiana
	Additional suitable seeding dates for Southern IN increased freeze risk for Northern IN
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	Additional suitable seeding dates for Northern IN

¹ FFD--Not to be planted prior to Fly-Free Date
² Dormant/Frost seeding from December thru February. Increase seeding rates by 25%.
³ Also Sudangrass
⁴ Depends on variety

Planting cover crops within their seasonal seeding windows promotes germination and growth. Planting earlier in the windows often encourages more plant vigor, which can lead to greater benefits in weed suppression and soil health.

The table above shows seeding windows for Indiana, sourced from the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Indiana Seeding Tool (October 2016). For additional insight into seeding windows, visit the [Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/indiana/cover-crops/).