

Grass
Cereal Rye, Winter
Secale cereale



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Most commonly-grown cover crop in the US. Most winter-hardy cover crop. Best winter cover for low-fertility or acid soils. Tolerates wet soil. Winter cereal rye requires vernalization (overwintering) to flower and will likely fail to flower if planted in spring. Best winter cover for many purposes: excellent for biomass, N scavenging, weed control. Good forage, but low quality after heading. Best choice for roller-crimping. Height, biomass, high C:N ratio at maturity may hinder the growth of a following non-legume cash crop. Potential weed if it sets seed, especially in small grain cash crops. Mixes well with legumes. Can plant later than any small grain, but goes to head early in spring – only barley is earlier.



Cereal Rye, Winter - Ackroyd [2020]

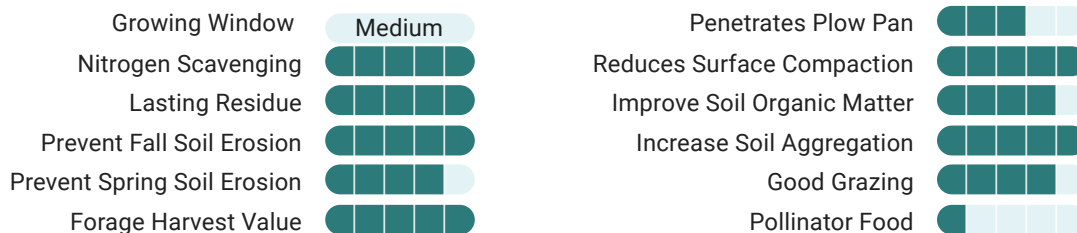


Cereal Rye, Winter - Bjorkman [2020]

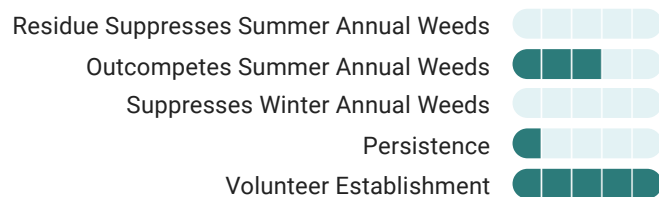


Cereal Rye, Winter - Ackroyd [2020]

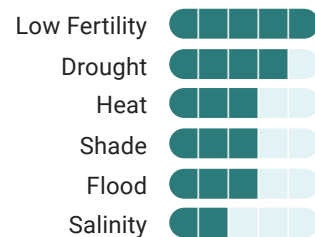
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



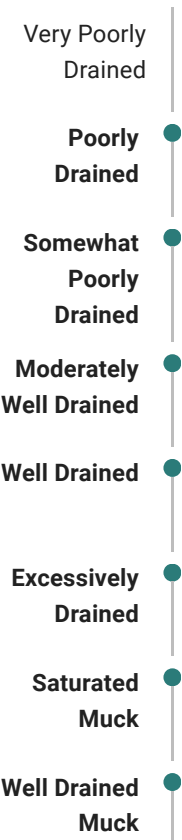


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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1500 - 6000
Soil Texture	Coarse
	Medium
	Fine
Soil pH	4.5 - 8.2
Soil Moisture Use	
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	Vernalization
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage



Planting

Seeds Per Lb	
Seed Price Per Lb	\$ \$ \$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	75 - 150
Drilled Depth	0.75" - 1.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	34

Termination

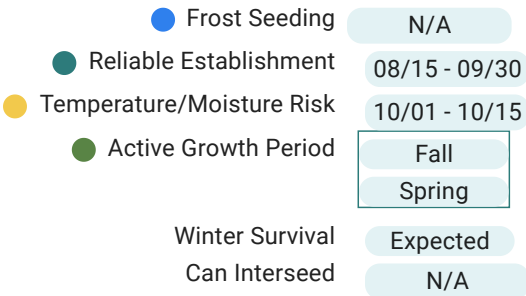
Tillage At Vegetative	
Tillage At Flowering	
Freezing At Vegetative	
Freezing At Flowering	
Chemical At Vegetative	
Chemical At Flowering	
Mow At Flowering	
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	

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Planting and Growth Windows



Extended Comments

Planting: If you are planning to use as a mulch for following crop you need to seed at the high end of the recommended rate.

Weeds: Can become a weed if tilled at wrong stage; Best if killed early; Not recommended before corn; Mow-kills after heading

Forage and Grazing: Can be lightly grazed in the fall and again in the spring, or harvested in the spring as ryelage.

Insects: Use as a winter crop and terminated in early or late spring has no impact on arthropods in a subsequent soybean crop

Termination: Roller-crimping is less effective on sparse stands.

References & Resources

UNH Researchers Find Forage Radish is the Cream of Cover Crops, University of New Hampshire Ag Experiment Station
Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension