

Cereal Rye

Cereal Rye is the most winter-hardy cover crop option in the Midwest. Cereal rye is known for its extensive root system that offers erosion control, nutrient cycling, water holding capacity and drainage improvements and weed suppression. It can also be used as a forage.

Cereal rye is suggested for use ahead of soybeans. When used ahead of corn, there is a risk of a negative impact to the corn crop. This risk can be reduced by applying starter fertilizer, and having plenty of nitrogen available in early season. It is also important to use a full rate FST/IST seed treatment and scout throughout the season. We suggest terminating rye at least two weeks before planting.

For fields that will be soybeans, cereal rye can be terminated ahead of planting, or planted into green, depending on individual preference.

Cereal rye is not overly tolerant of heat or low light, so we suggest seeding after harvest, as it is very cold tolerant.



Seeding Method: Broadcast or drill

Seeding Rate: 50 - 100#/ac mono, 20 - 50#/ac mix

Seeding Depth: 1" - 1.5"

Seeding Dates: 9/10 - 11/15

Notes: Always use cleaned & tested seed! True varieties are easier to manage in spring than VNS or a blend.