

# Cereal Rye

*Secale cereale*



Season type: Winter annual cereal

## Uses

Compaction reduction	G	Attract beneficials	F
Residue persistence	E	Nitrogen scavenger	E
Erosion control	E	P & K scavenger	VG
Weed control	E	Forage quality	G
Nematode control	G		

E=Excellent; VG=Very Good; G=Good; F=Fair; P=Poor/None

Seeding rate: 60 to 120 lb./acre

Planting date: Late September to late November

## Production

Residue: 3,000 to 7,000 lb./acre

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## Surface residue

Greatest production of residue for weed control, erosion prevention, water conservation, and organic matter buildup.

## Weed control

Rye suppresses weeds by out-competing them for sunlight and space and by producing allelopathic chemicals that inhibit weed seed germination.

## Compaction remediation

Deep roots open channels in the soil. As they decompose, channels remain for air and water movement.

## Nutrient scavenger

Extensive roots scavenge nitrogen remaining from previous crops. Can be mixed with legumes to provide nitrogen as well as biomass.

## Erosion control

Quick-growing, fibrous roots protect against erosion and promote good soil structure that improves water drainage.



Adapted from *Managing Cover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition*



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