

Cover Crop Costs



Seed costs and pure live seed (PLS) rates for various cover crops in the southeastern US.

| Cover Crop | Price | Per Acre | | Per 1000 ft ² | |
|---------------------|-------|----------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | \$/lb | lb/acre | \$/acre | lb/1,000ft ² | \$/1,000 ft ² |
| Austrian Winter Pea | 0.79 | 75 | 59.24 | 1.7 | 1.36 |
| Black Oat | 0.47 | 60 | 28.20 | 1.4 | 0.66 |
| Cereal Rye | 0.35 | 90 | 31.50 | 2.1 | 0.74 |
| Crimson Clover | 1.51 | 16 | 24.18 | 0.4 | 0.60 |
| Hairy Vetch | 1.95 | 20 | 38.96 | 0.5 | 0.97 |
| Iron Clay Cowpea | 0.76 | 50 | 37.96 | 1.1 | 0.84 |
| Oat | 0.48 | 75 | 35.70 | 1.7 | 0.81 |
| Radish | 1.60 | 10 | 16.00 | 0.2 | 0.32 |
| Sorghum-Sudangrass | 0.77 | 35 | 27.10 | 0.8 | 0.62 |
| Sunn Hemp | 2.27 | 30 | 68.20 | 0.7 | 1.59 |
| Triticale | 0.75 | 35 | 22.50 | 0.7 | 0.53 |
| Velvet Bean | 3.50 | 30 | 105.00 | 0.7 | 2.45 |
| Wheat | 0.26 | 75 | 19.31 | 1.7 | 0.44 |

Raw seed costs based on 2015 data unless otherwise noted. Does not include shipping costs.

$\$/lb \times lb/acre = \$/acre$; $lb/acre \div 43.56 = lb/1,000ft^2$

This table shows typical costs and PLS rates for various southeastern USA cover crops. The costs are an average of several southeastern retailers. Your costs and rates may differ.



Radish



Rye



Wheat



Clover

Cover Crop Costs



Estimated variable costs to establish and terminate a cereal rye cover crop

| Input / Activity | Unit | Cost | Units/Acre | Cost | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | | \$/unit | | \$/acre | \$/1000ft ² |
| Establishment | | | | | |
| Seed (Cereal Rye) | pounds | 0.35 | 90 | 31.50 | 0.72 |
| No-till Drill | acre | 8.91 | 1 | 8.91 | 0.20 |
| Fertilization | | | | | |
| Fertilizer | pounds | 0.58 | 30 | 17.40 | 0.41 |
| Application | acre | 5.03 | 1 | 5.03 | 0.12 |
| Cover Crop Termination | | | | | |
| <i>Chemical Termination</i> | | | | | |
| Glyphosate | ounces | 0.13 | 16 | 2.24 | 0.05 |
| Application | acre | 0.79 | 1 | 0.79 | 0.02 |
| <i>Mechanical Termination</i> | | | | | |
| Rolling, mowing, etc. | acre | 5.30 | 1 | 5.30 | 0.12 |
| Total Cost | | | | 71.17 | 1.63 |

All input / activity costs are based on 2015/2016 data. Application costs do not include fixed costs.

This table is an example of the costs for establishing, growing, and terminating a cover crop. For this example we used cereal rye. Your own system or costs may differ (variable fuel costs, machinery age and size, and labor costs).



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Fact Sheet No. 04o
May 2016

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