

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Bulletin E-3065

Integrated Weed Management: Fine Tuning the System

Seeding dates and rates

Planting times and rates differ for cover crops just as they do for cash crops (Table 2). Summer annual cover crops such as buckwheat and sorghum-sudangrass need to be planted during the warm months. On the other hand, cold tolerant cover crops like hairy vetch and the clovers have a larger planting window.

Table 2. Seeding timing of various cover crops.

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Red clover	←→							→
Crimson clover	←→					→		
Spring barley		←→	→					
Oats		←→	→		←→	→		
Hairy vetch	←→					→		
Chickling vetch	←→	→			←→	→		
Sweet clover	←→							→
Cowpeas			←→		→			
Field peas†	←→	→			←→	→		
Turnips/Forage rape		←→	→		←→	→		
Oriental mustard		←→			→			
Oilseed radish		←→			←→	→		
Buckwheat			←→		→			
Cereal rye						←→	→	
Winter wheat						←→	→	
Winter barley						←→	→	
Triticale						←→	→	
Annual ryegrass		←→	→		←→	→		
White clover	←→						→	
Sorghum-sudangrass			←→		→			

†Also known as Austrian winter peas (black peas), Canadian field peas (spring peas).