

Single Species Small Grain

Producer Name: _____

Date: _____

INFORMATION ON THIS JOB SHEET IS CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF THE CONTRACT AND/OR CONSERVATION PLAN.

Purpose

This job sheet will be used to establish cover crops that provide ground cover for erosion control.

Cover crops protect the soil surface from erosion while maintaining/improving the soil’s physical, biological, and chemical properties. They also assist with weed control, limit runoff of fertilizers and chemicals, conserve moisture, cycle nutrients, etc.

Cover crops scavenge available nitrogen left in soil system after a cash crop has been grown, hold it over winter months and release it back to the following year’s cash crop.

Cover crops assist in achieving the goal of keeping something growing in the field at times when the soil would otherwise be bare or fallow for more than 30 days.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

On all lands requiring vegetative cover crops for natural resource protection, improvement and/or nitrogen sequestration.

Establishment Specifications

1. Appropriate cover crop species should be chosen



to maximize landowner objectives. Please see Insert 1 for seeding rates for individual cover crop species. Landowner decisions and applications can be recorded in Table 1 attached.

2. Seed will conform to minimum state standards for purity, germination and other features. Commercially marketed seed in Kentucky meets these requirements. All recommended seeding rates in this job sheet and/or the “Kentucky Cover Crop Guidance” document are for pure live seed (PLS).

Seeding and Seedbed Preparation

No-till establishment is the preferred method of seeding since soil disturbance is minimal, thus reducing weed competition, risk of soil erosion, and maintenance of soil health.

Seeding Dates

Optimum seeding dates for single species cover crops sown for erosion control are August 15th through November 1st. It should be noted that wheat should only be sown on or after October 10th but no later than November 1st. Cereal rye may be sown any time within the August 15th to November

1st recommended seeding window.

No-Till Seeding

Care should be exercised when setting drills to ensure planting depths and rates are correct for the species planted.

Conventional Seeding

The importance of a dry firm seedbed cannot be over emphasized to ensure proper planting depth.

Seedbeds may be prepared by disking.

Once seedbed is prepared, broadcast seed, cultipack, harrow or roll the seeded area only once to ensure good seed to soil contact and the proper seeding depth.

Aerial Seeding

When using aerial seeding method cover crop seeding rates must be increased by at least 25% for all cover crop seed species to insure adequate cover crop stand.

When possible, aerial seeding should be performed over top of an existing cash crop before leaves of the existing crop fall to the ground. (Example: Aerial seeding of cover crop over soybeans prior to fall of soybean foliage.)

Operation and Maintenance

It should be noted that cover crop must over winter before termination can occur. The latest a cover crop can be terminated is within 5 days after planting of cash crop or before cash crop emergence.

See the “Kentucky Cover Crop Guidance” document attached to the Cover Crop 340 Standard located in the eFOTG, Section IV, for more information. Cover crop ID #'s 1 and 2 listed in Table 1 of the “Kentucky Cover Crop Guidance” document are eligible for this practice in conjunction with the stipulations set in “Insert 1” of this job sheet.

Cover crops CANNOT be harvested for grain, silage, or hay. All crop residues must be left on the soil surface.

Insert 1: Seeding Rates For Single Species Cover Crops. All seeding recommendations are for pure live seed (PLS).

<i>Cover Crop Species (PLS)</i>	<i>Seeding Dates</i>
*Cereal Rye (65 lbs/ac)	August 15 th through November 1 st
*Wheat (90 lbs/ac)	**October 10 th through November 1 st

*When using aerial seeding methods to sow cover crops, seeding rates should be increased by a minimum of 25% to insure adequate stand establishment. If at all possible, aerial sown cover crops should be sown over top of standing cash crop (before leave fall in soybeans) to insure better seed germination and moisture conditions. Cereal Rye shall be used for cover crops sown before October 10th.

**Wheat shall not be sown before October 10th.

Certifications

Job Sheet	Prepared by:	Title:	Date:
	Approved by:	Title:	Date:
Installation	Meets NRCS standards and specifications.		
	Certification by:	Title:	Date:
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