



# Overwintering Cover Crops Fact Sheet

## What is H2Ohio?

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine’s comprehensive, data-driven water quality plan to reduce harmful algal blooms, improve wastewater infrastructure, and prevent lead contamination.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is leading efforts to reduce phosphorus runoff. Producers can receive incentives for implementing proven, cost-effective best management practices on their land.

## Cost Share Incentive

Producers will receive \$25 per acre payment once all practice requirements have been met.

## Practice Compatibility

- Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Implementation
- Variable Rate Phosphorus Application
- Subsurface Phosphorus Placement
- Manure Incorporation
- Conservation Crop Rotation-Small Grains
- Conservation Crop Rotation - Forages
- Drainage Water Management

## Important Dates to Remember

Fall – Year of Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover Crops must meet the criteria for seeding, establishment, and maintenance per NRCS Appendix A, including seed quality and testing requirements.</li> <li>• Seed mix must include a minimum of 50% of full rate of an overwintering species.</li> <li>• All overwintering cover crops must be planted by October 15.</li> <li>• Turn in seed tags, bills, seeding date to SWCD after establishment.</li> </ul>
Spring After Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overwintering cover crop must remain undisturbed until March 15.</li> <li>• Cover crop cannot be harvested as a grain but can be harvested as a forage or grazed after March 15.</li> </ul>
Late Spring - Early Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payments will be made after verification process is complete.</li> </ul>



## Frequently Asked Questions

*Can I spread manure on my cover crop after seeding?*

No. Nutrient applications cannot take place between October 15 and March 15, must follow all rules and regulations for nutrient application.

*Why is October 15 the deadline for seeding?*

Seeding cover crops prior to October 15 reduce the risk of planting failure. Research has found that planting cover crops outside recommended planting dates can have a dramatic effect on final plant stand and overall biomass of the cover crop.

*If I have seed from a previously harvested grain, can I use that seed for my cover crop?*

Yes, you can. However, it will be necessary to send a sample off to be tested for % purity, % germ., % weed seed, Ohio noxious weed content. Your local SWCD can provide you with information on how to accomplish this.

## How Do I Apply?

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District  
H2Ohio@richlandswcd.net  
419-747-8688 or 419-747-8367