

About Cover Crops for wildflower seeding projects

The majority of species contained in our wildflower seed mixes are perennial and take 1-3 years to establish. In the meantime a cover crop can benefit a seeding project. Here are some reasons to include them in your seeding plans.

Benefits of using Cover Crops

- Provide quick root development to help hold soil in place which is especially important on slopes and bare soil.
- Assists with weed control taking light and soil space from potential invading weed seeds.
- Visually provide green growth throughout seeding during the establishment phase.
- Non-native wildflower mixes can provide colorful bloom the 1st growing season.

Cover Crop Options

- Spring Seeding - Annual Rye or Annual Rye/Seed Oats Mix or Non-Native Annual Wildflower Mix
- Fall Seeding - Annual Rye
- In between Spring and Fall - Annual rye a cover crop is needed to hold site and seed wildflower/prairie grass seeds into the cover crop later.

Use Annual rye and Seed oats when:

Moderate to heavy weeds are expected

- Mowing is expected as management the first growing season
- The site is not highly visible
- New construction sites
- Old field sites

Use Non-Native Annual Wildflower Seed Mixes when:

- Minimal weeds are expected
- Mowed turf is being converted to wildflowers/prairie grasses
- Site is highly visible