

Cover Crop Costs



Seed costs and rates for various southeastern USA cover crops.

Cover Crop	Price	Per Acre		Per 1000 ft ²	
	\$/lb	lb/acre	\$/acre	lb/1,000ft ²	\$/1,000 ft ²
Crimson Clover	1.63	16	26.13	0.4	0.65
Hairy Vetch	2.60	20	52.00	0.5	1.30
Iron Clay Cowpea	0.85	50	42.42	1.1	0.93
Sunn Hemp	2.58	30	77.40	0.7	1.81
Velvet Bean	4.00	30	120.00	0.7	2.80
White Clover	4.73	7	33.11	0.2	0.95
Persian Clover	3.00	5	15.00	0.1	0.30
Winter Pea	0.71	75	53.38	1.7	1.21
Black Oat	0.50	60	30.00	1.4	0.70
Buckwheat	1.00	55	55.00	1.3	1.30
Cereal Rye	0.57	90	51.60	2.1	1.20
Mustard	4.00	10	40.00	0.2	0.80
Oat	0.37	75	27.50	1.7	0.62
Radish	3.09	10	30.88	0.2	0.62
Sorghum-sudangrass	1.03	35	36.05	0.8	0.82
Wheat	0.32	75	23.75	1.7	0.54

Raw seed costs based on 2014 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 rates for various southeastern USA cover crops. The costs are an average of several southeastern retailers. Your costs and rates may differ.



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Cover Crop Costs



Estimated 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	0.57	90	51.30	1.18
No-till Drill	acre	9.71	1	9.71	0.22
Fertilization					
Fertilizer	pounds	0.59	30	17.70	0.41
Application	acre	6.32	1	6.32	0.15
Cover Crop Termination					
Chemical Termination					
Glyphosate	ounces	0.13	16	2.08	0.048
Application	acre	1.68	1	1.68	0.039
Mechanical Termination					
Rolling, mowing, etc.	acre	4.14	1	4.14	0.10
Total Cost				92.93	2.13
All input / activity costs are based on 2014 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 rye. Your own system or costs may differ, of course.

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