

# Oats Grain

## Key Features

---

Oats are one of the most versatile cool season grasses. As a cover crop, oats flexibility in planting time allows them to be combined in many different blends. Excellent nutrient scavenging and erosion control can be achieved. Oats are an excellent early spring option combined with legumes and broadleaves. In the fall, oats can be combined with other cool season grasses, legumes, and brassicas to provide a diverse mix. Oats planted as a cover crop can double as a forage in any of those mixes. With a deep and fibrous root mass, oats are an excellent scavenger of nitrogen. Oats specifically for grain use can be harvested for the grain and straw when planted in a timely manner in the spring.

## Applications

---

Cover Crop  
Forage  
Nurse Crop

## Planting Time

---

Spring  
Fall

## Management Keys

---

Oats readily establish on loosened bare soil or in close cut harvested fields for cover crop use and can be broadcast if necessary. Drilling will allow for quicker germination and establishment. Allow oats to reach a height of 8-12" before grazing to maximize tonnage. To extend fall grazing, oats can be planted alone or in a blend in late summer or early fall. Oats will hold their structure and forage quality through a few fall freezes, making them a good grazing option. Oats will winterkill in most areas and breakdown over the winter providing an excellent seedbed for the following crop in the spring. As a nurse crop for a new pasture or alfalfa seeding, oats will provide erosion control and help control weeds as new seeding establishes.



## Characteristics

---

Cover Crop	5
Spring Planting	5
Late Summer Planting	5
Fall Planting	4

Scale 1-5 (1 = Poor, 5 + Excellent)

## Seeding Rate

---

75-85 lbs per acre drilled  
90-110 lbs per acre broadcast  
40-60 lbs per acre as a nurse crop

## Seeding Depth

---

Approximately 1"

