

# CHOOSING COVER CROPS TO MEET YOUR GOAL



- 1 Sequester Nutrients:**  
Aggressively scavenge and cycle nutrients from deep within the soil profile to the root zone.
- 2 Reduce Soil Erosion:**  
Top growth and root systems create an interior shield from erosion and minimize "splash" and wind erosion.
- 3 Nitrogen Source:**  
Legumes produce additional N by fixating atmospheric nitrogen in the soil.
- 4 Break Up Soil Compaction:**  
Deep roots break up compacted soils to create pore space, improving aeration, water movement and increasing soil organisms.
- 5 Weed Control:**  
Create competition against winter annuals and other weeds by shading them out and preventing them from absorbing valuable moisture and nutrients.

- 6 Pest Control:**  
Cover crops have the ability to suppress nematode populations by premature egg hatching. Removing winter annuals that might play host for refuge will also help decrease populations.
- 7 Generate Additional Forage:**  
Cover crop species have the added benefit of being a "dual purpose" crop that can be used as valuable forage when needed.
- 8 Wildlife and Pollinators:**  
Fall, winter and spring cover crops create perfect environments for wildlife protection, food and nesting. Biodiversity created by cover crops create positive effects on native pollinators.
- 9 Organic Matter:**  
The breakdown of cover crops add organic humus to the soil and feed soil microbes, improve soil tilth, soil quality and water holding capacity.

## Seeding Application Methods:

- Drill or Traditional - Air Seeder
- Broadcast Applications
- Aerial - Surface Seeding
- Precision - Row-Crop Planters

# SPEARE SEEDS SOIL SUPREME COVER CROP PRODUCT GUIDE



**SPEARESEEDS**  
THE SEEDS FOR YOUR SUCCESS

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# SS SUPREME STOCK BLENDS

<b>SS SUPREME SOIL COVER MIX</b>	<b>DRILLED 25 LB. / ACRE    BROADCAST 30 LB. / ACRE</b>
An economical cover crop blend that will establish quickly and will winter kill for easy termination. Works well when used in conjunction with manure, bio solids or other high fertility situations. <b>Contains:</b> Oats and Tillage Radish.	
<b>SS SUPREME N-BOOST MIX</b>	<b>DRILLED 20-25 LB. / ACRE    BROADCAST 25-30 LB. / ACRE</b>
An all-purpose mix that will work well planted after cereal harvest. Establishes quickly, works well to scavenge nutrients and will also provide some nitrogen credits. <b>Contains:</b> Oats, Tillage Radish and Crimson Clover.	
<b>SS SUPREME MULTI-SPECIES MIX</b>	<b>DRILLED 20-25 LB. / ACRE    BROADCAST 25-30 LB. / ACRE</b>
A diverse mix that will provide flowers to attract pollinators if planted early. Keep seeding rate low to give phacelia and crimson clover a chance to compete and flower. Works well after cereal harvest for fall cover. <b>Contains:</b> Oats, Forage Peas, Crimson Clover, Tillage Radish, Sorghum Sudangrass, Sunflowers, and Phacelia.	
<b>SS SUPREME SOIL SAVER MIX</b>	<b>50-60 LB. / ACRE</b>
Hairy vetch is not always winter hardy in southern Ontario but the addition of fall rye can help. The more growth in the spring, the more N produced by the hairy vetch for the following crop. Should be planted by early September to allow the hairy vetch to establish before winter. <b>Contains:</b> Fall Rye and Hairy Vetch.	
<b>SS SUPREME FALL GRAZE MIX</b>	<b>DRILLED 40 LB. / ACRE</b>
A diverse mix that will provide fall grazing, ideally plant in midsummer and fertilize to maximize potential growth. Have a plan to terminate the Italian ryegrass to prevent unwanted seed production if allowed to over winter. <b>Contains:</b> Oats, Enhancer Italian Ryegrass, Winfred Brassica, Frosty Berseem Clover and Pearl Millet.	
<b>SS SUPREME CORN INTERSEED MIX</b>	<b>DRILLED 8-12 LB. / ACRE    BROADCAST 12-15 LB. / ACRE</b>
Plant at V4-V8 corn leaf stage, lower seeding rates can work if the seed is actually planted into the soil. Keep in mind herbicide restrictions and have a plan to terminate the annual ryegrass. The LowBoy feature of staying short facilitates no-till planting into the residue the following spring. <b>Contains:</b> Lowboy Annual Ryegrass and Crimson Clover.	

## Custom Mixing Available

Don't see a mixture that appeals to your needs? No mix is too big or too small. Our Forage and Cover Crop specialists will help you to select the best varieties to formulate a forage or cover crop mixture specific to your needs and goals, creating high quality blends for local soil and climate conditions.

# HEALTHIER SOILS BEGIN WITH SEED

Cover crops have been a part of crop rotations for many years. Speare Seeds is committed to the adoption of cover crops wherever agricultural land exists. Our focus on extended research and development of cover crops continues to expand, allowing us to offer proven seeds to enhance your cover crop success and in turn, increase your soil's health for future generations!

## TILLAGE RADISH



Breaks up soil compaction with its aggressive taproot, creating thick channels 30" or deeper. This nitrogen storage tank holds N and other nutrients over winter and releases them as needed by following cash crops.

## LOWBOY ANNUAL RYEGRASS



A new innovative, and low growing annual ryegrass that focuses on canopy density rather than height. LowBoy plants form a tremendous root system that is both deep and wide. LowBoy is also endophyte-free and safe for all livestock.

## FIXATION BALANSA CLOVER



Balanza Clover is a small seeded annual legume that is quick to establish when planted in Spring, offers excellent forage production, and is well-adapted to a wide range of soil types.

## FROSTY BERSEEM CLOVER



Berseem Clover is quick to germinate and establish making it a good tool for weed suppression. Frosty's aggressive rooting system can pull up other nutrients from deep within the soil, making them available to the following crop. It has a low risk of bloat and can be cut or grazed multiple times throughout the season.

## IMAGE OILSEED RADISH



Image Radish was developed to biologically control nematodes. Image Nematode Radish controls 28 different species of nematodes including soybean cyst, cereal cyst, sugar beet cyst, root knot and clover root nematode. It establishes and grows quickly during cool weather. It can provide fast cover and a green manure crop for cash crops. It has deep, branching roots that can help break up compacted soil layers and scavenge nitrates before they leach into the ground water.

## GREEN SPIRIT BIENNIAL RYEGRASS BLEND



A biennial ryegrass that can provide high quality forage for silage or grazing. When planted in the spring it will not produce seed heads until the second year. Usually winter hardy if planted by mid-September in most of Ontario. Requires careful management for the highest production and to keep from producing seed heads.

AUSTRIAN WINTER PEAS

BLACK FORAGE PEAS

BROWN MUSTARD

BUCKWHEAT

CHICORY

COW PEAS

CRIMSON CLOVER

FABA BEANS

FALL RYE

GROUNDBREAKER RADISH

HAIRY VETCH

JAPANESE MILLET

OATS

PEARL MILLET

PHACELIA

SORGHUM SUDANGRASS

SPRING/WINTER TRITICALE

SUNFLOWER SEED

SUNN HEMP

TURNIP

WHITE/YELLOW MUSTARD

YELLOW SEMI-LEAFLESS PEAS

50/50 PEA/OAT MIX

## Organic Cover Crops

Please contact our office for a list of varieties that are available as an organic option.