

Cereal Rye

Technical Sheet

Cereal rye is an upright, cool season, annual grass. It can grow 3 to 6 feet tall, has flat leaf blades, and is topped with awned flower spikes called heads.

Cereal rye is an excellent winter cover crop because it rapidly produces a ground cover that holds soil in place against the forces of wind and water. Rye's deep roots help prevent compaction in annually tilled fields, and because its roots are quite extensive, rye also has a positive effect on soil tilth. It can also be used as a livestock forage between cash crops.

Once established, Rye is the most winter-hardy of all cereal grains, tolerating temperatures as low as -30°F. It can germinate and grow at temperatures as low as 33°F.

Cereal rye thrives on well-drained loam soils but it's tolerant of both heavy clays and droughty, sandy soils. It can grow in low-fertility soils where other cereal grains may fail.

To avoid the grow-back of the rye, it is best to incorporate it when it is between 12 and 18 inches tall and still succulent.

Cereal Rye creates a physical barrier to weeds by producing large amounts of biomass and suppresses weeds chemically by producing allelopathic chemicals.

SEEDING RATE

60 - 75 lb. / acre



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