

True black oats (*Avena strigosa*) are a different species than oats (*Avena sativa*) usually planted in the Coastal Plain. They produce a dense, thick growth and will produce comparable biomass to cereal rye at half to 2/3 the height. They are less cold tolerant than common oats. There are two varieties of black oat available for sale in the U.S. – “SoilSaver” and “Pratex”. Seeds for SoilSaver are not currently commercially available due to seed crop failure.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
SoilSaver	Increased cold tolerance.	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	1 - 1 ½	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	50 - 70	Managing Cover Crops Profitably, USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	100	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Termination Information

Information	Source
Black oats are not as cold hardy as most oat varieties. They will usually winter kill at less than 19F depending on growth stage. SoilSaver was developed to be more cold tolerant. Black oats can be terminated by herbicides, rolling & crimping, mowing, and tillage. They can be killed by rolling & crimping alone at the early milk stage. Rolling & crimping should be combined with herbicides at earlier growth stages.	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.	

Continue to next page...



Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	4,000 - 7,000	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	15 - 30	Unpublished Literature Review in Coastal Plain – Gaskin
Life Cycle	Cool season annual grain	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Growth Habit	Upright	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Preferred Soil pH	4.5 - 7.3	USDA Black Oats Plant Guide
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	N/A	Currently not available.
Min. Germination Temp (F)	N/A	
Cautions		

Sources:

Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books>

USDA Black Oats Plant Guide: https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_avst2.pdf