

Oats can produce a good amount of biomass and are not as tall as cereal rye. Oats are more susceptible to Barely Yellow Dwarf Virus and rust than cereal rye. If you have other small grain cash crops, use rust resistance varieties. Oats can be planted in the late winter and still make acceptable cover. Oats suppress root-knot nematodes. Oats should not be planted before cash cereal crops.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Coker 277	Standard variety, cold tolerant.	
Horizon 720, Legend 567	Good forage varieties, resistant to crown rust, good biomass.	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data; Gaskin unpublished data
Cosaque	Good cold tolerance, more susceptible to rust than rye or black oats. Cosaque is sometimes mistakenly sold as a black oat but is <i>Avena sativa</i> .	
Heavy Grazer II	Developed for biomass production. Good cold tolerance.	East Texas Seed
Graham	A shorter height variety.	Clemson University

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	½ - 1 ½	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	60 - 100	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	110 - 120	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Termination Information

Information	Source
In the Mountains and Ridge & Valley, early fall plantings may winterkill. Oats can be terminated by herbicides, rolling & crimping, mowing or tillage. Herbicides are usually more effective after blooming (antheses). Rolling & crimping is most effective at milk to soft dough stage. Farmer experience indicates Cosaque is difficult to kill with glyphosate before heading.	Managing Cover Crops Profitably GA county agent – personal communication
Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.	

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	2,000 - 7,000	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	N/A	
Life Cycle	Cool season annual cereal	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Growth Habit	Upright	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Preferred Soil pH	5.5 - 7.5	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	38°	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Cautions	May be depredated by deer. Oats are the most palatable of the small grains.	

Sources:

East Texas Seed: <https://www.easttexaseedcompany.com/oatswheat.php>

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Annual Reports:

<http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/forages/species/Oat.html>

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