

Cover Crop Seed Sale

The Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District is offering two **autumn cover crop** seed mixes for use in your backyard garden. LSWCD has partnered with Walnut Creek Seeds to offer cover crop mixes well suited to northwest Ohio.

Why Cover Crops?

Garden Cover Crop Mixes help to reduce erosion and compaction, and increase water permeation in the garden. They also hold minerals normally leached from your soil over the winter. Densely planted cover crops will suppress perennial and winter annual weed growth. The top growth and roots add organic matter to the garden soil. The cover crop's root system also opens passage-ways that help improve air and water movement and supports microbial life. This microbial life works synergistically with the roots, bacteria and fungi to improve soil health.

At the end of the garden season you may be ready to rest, but your soil is not. All gardens benefit from the use of cover crops, or "green manures" planted at the end of the season. Tilling, weeding, harvesting and foot traffic tends to destroy soil structure. Planting cover crops is an easy way to revitalize the soil.

The advantage of rolling, crushing or using winter kill varieties is to leave the soil surface covered and relatively undisturbed, preventing weeds from growing. In the spring, just plant through and let it act as your mulch. Tilling or pulling is NOT recommended as it destroys root and earthworm pathways, reduces the beneficial microorganism population and oxidizes soil organic matter. You can also harvest the tops for compost.

Order Form:

NAME _____ DAY PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Name	Size bag (covers)	Price Per bag	# Purchasing	Total Cost
Garden Late Mix	1 lb. (200-300 sq.ft.)	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Austrian Winter Pea	1 lb. (200-300 sq.ft.)	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____

DEADLINE TO ORDER: OCTOBER 1st. Seeds will be ready for pick up at the LSWCD Office on October 15th.

Mail to: Lucas SWCD, 130-A West Dudley Street, Maumee Ohio 43537

Order on-line: www.lucasswcd.org/covercropsale.html

Need Cover Crop Answers?

Cover crops are new to many backyard gardeners. We can help!!

For more information, please contact the Lucas SWCD at: **419-893-1966** and we can get you in touch with some wonderful resources!



Garden Late Cover Mix is a simple cover crop mix designed to plant with a minimal window prior to first frost and still provide the benefits of a cover crop. The combination may be planted up until mid October in Zone 5, late October in Zone 6. It will loosen topsoil, protect your soil from winter erosion and nutrient loss, suppress weeds and provide mulch in the spring and food for soil micro and macro organisms which are crucial for healthy soil. **Includes:** Cereal Rye, Hairy Vetch and Crimson Clover. A one pound bag will seed 200-300 square feet.

Austrian Winter Pea:

A quick growing, excellent source of Nitrogen which provides very good erosion control and breaks down quickly. Winter peas are also very good at loosening topsoil and reducing weeds and disease. Succulent stems break down easily. Added bacterial inoculant will maximize nitrogen fixation. Field peas grow rapidly in the cool, moist weather, and can be sown in late fall to come up quickly in early spring. Spring flowers provide nectar for pollinators, and shoots are edible in salads. A one pound bag will seed 200-300 square ft.



We will have more garden cover crop mixes available in the Spring 2020 Tree & Garden Sale ~ Check the Spring 2020 Newsletter!