

Grasses

Triticale

AS A COVER CROP IN OHIO

This fact sheet summarizes information specific to Ohio that is available from the Midwest Cover Crops Council. For more information, see the *Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide, Third Edition*, and the Cover Crop Selector Tool found at: midwestcovercrops.org/selector-tool/



Triticum x Secale

Identification Information

- Resembles wheat and winter cereal rye
- Plant looks like wheat, but the awns resemble cereal rye.
- Membranous ligules

Cultural Traits

- Winter annual
- Minimum germination temperature: 38°F
- Reliable establishment window (state average): Aug. 15–Nov. 1
- Upright growth habit: 3–5 feet
- Preferred soil pH: 6.0–7.0

Heat tolerance: Good

Drought tolerance: Good

Shade tolerance: Good

Flood tolerance: Good

Low fertility tolerance: Very good

Winter survival: Expected for winter triticale
 ■ Spring triticale is cold tolerant but not winter hardy.

Individuals participating in financial assistance programs are required to follow NRCS Appendix A regarding seeding rates and dates. Failure to do so will jeopardize payments. Appendix A can be found in Ohio's Field Office Technical Guide, Section 4, Ecological Sciences Tools: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/OH/documents/section=4&folder=-6>

Planting Information

- Drilled at $\frac{3}{4}$ –1½ inches
 - 40–90 lbs./acre (pure live seed)
- Broadcast with shallow incorporation
 - 45–90 lbs./acre (pure live seed)
- Broadcast without incorporation
 - 50–90 lbs./acre (pure live seed)

Additional planting information:

- 13,000 seeds/lb.
- When planting on slopes or using for forage/grazing, increase seeding rate.
- When interseeding, time seeding to match appropriate crop growth/maturity.
- Broadcasting without incorporation is usually less dependable than drilling or broadcasting with incorporation.

Performance

- Dry matter = 2,000–5,000 lbs./acre per year
 - Biomass quantity is highly dependent on planting/termination dates and precipitation.

Nitrogen scavenger: Very good

Soil builder: Very good

Erosion fighter: Excellent

Weed fighter: Very good

Grazing: Excellent

Quick growth: Very good

Lasting residue: Very good

Mechanical forage harvest: Excellent

Grain seed harvest: Very good

Cash crop interseed: Good



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Termination Information

- Tillage
 - If terminating with only tillage, multiple passes are often required.
 - Triticale may be difficult to terminate with tillage.
- Roller crimper
 - Roller crimping is the most difficult/variable termination method.
 - Crimp during reproductive stage (full bloom).
- Chemical

Additional termination information:

- It is best to terminate when plants are small *except* when rolling/crimping.
- Mowing after heading may terminate.
- Adjust termination dates based on soil moisture.
- Terminate at least two weeks before planting corn.
- Triticale can become a weed if not completely terminated.
- Follow NRCS guidelines for cover crop termination dates for crop insurance compliance.

Additional performance information:

- The high seed cost of triticale typically restricts its use to forage.
- Triticale has good biomass production and rooting capability.
- Residue presence could increase risk of spring cutworm and potato stem borer.
- Triticale is a host for penetrans root lesion nematode, but it is a non-host for sugarbeet cyst nematode, soybean cyst nematode, and root knot nematode.
- Triticale may reduce sclerotinia risk.

Potential Advantages

SOIL IMPACTS

Subsoiler:	Good
Frees P and K:	Very good
Compaction fighter:	Good
Disease:	Good
Allelopathic:	Very good
Chokes weeds:	Very good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cool-season cereals are some of the best weed-suppressing cover crops. 	

OTHER

Bears traffic:	Good when drilled
Short windows:	Very good

Potential Disadvantages

Increased weed potential: Occasionally a minor problem

Increased insects/nematodes: Could be a moderate problem

Increased crop diseases: Could be a minor problem

Hinders crops: Could be a minor problem

Mature incorporation challenges: Could be a moderate problem

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(Note: This publication was adapted with consent from MCCC with content from the Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide, Third Edition, and Cover Crop Selector Tool: midwestcovercrops.org/selector-tool/.)

The Midwest Cover Crops Council (www.midwestcovercrops.org) aims to facilitate widespread adoption of cover crops throughout the Midwest by providing educational/outreach resources and programs, conducting new research, and communicating about cover crops to the public.

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