



## RAPESEED

Producers may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do they know the benefits of each species? Each month a different cover crop species will be highlighted to provide producers with information needed to successfully grow cover crops or alternative forages on their operation.

### AT A GLANCE

- A member of the brassica family
- Commonly known as canola and frequently used in oil production
- Rapeseed can be seeded earlier in the year than other cover crops, and planted later than other brassicas
- Breaks up soil compaction with its taproot

### PLANTING DETAILS

- Can be seeded earlier in the year than other cover crops, and planted later than other brassicas
- Great establishment rate when drilled, aerial-seeded, and broadcasted
- Seeding rates will vary based on seeding method and whether it's planted alone or in a mix
- Should be seeded at a rate of least 4 lbs/acre at 1/4" depth when drilled; aerial and broadcast methods increase seeding rates to a max of 10 lbs/acre.
- Should be planted when ground temperatures reach at least 40 degrees and have a minimum germination temperature of 41 degrees.
- Rapeseed should be planted no later than September 15 to maximize growth and ensure hardiness through winter.

### ABOUT RAPESEED

- Rapeseed is a member of the brassica family
- Believed to have originated from southern Europe or north Africa
- Commonly known for its group of rapeseeds known as canola that is widely used for oil production

### BENEFITS

#### Soil Health Benefits

Rapeseed helps break up compaction with its taproot. The fibrous roots will also scavenge for nutrients deeper in the soil profile.

#### Multipurpose Plant

Rapeseed can be used for oil production and is also a great addition to a field as a cover crop.



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