

2020 Ontario Cover Crop Feedback Report



Benefits to farmers

91% have observed benefits from growing cover crops

77% reported benefits within three years of adopting cover crops

Top 3 benefits

- Improved soil health
- Observing less erosion
- Increased soil organic matter

Of farms that did not grow a cover crop

52% had not grown a cover crop before but wanted to try in the future

9% had never grown but did not want to try

39% had grown a cover crop in a previous year, but not in 2020

Top challenges farmers face

- Poor cover crop establishment (30%)
- The late harvest of a cash crop preventing cover crop planting (27%)
- Additional costs associated with growing a cover crop (25%)

Challenges of why farmers do not grow cover crops

- Additional costs (41%)
- Lack of equipment (36%)
- Late harvest of cash crops preventing cover crop planting (29%)
- Not knowing where to start (24%)
- Shortness of the growing season (23%)

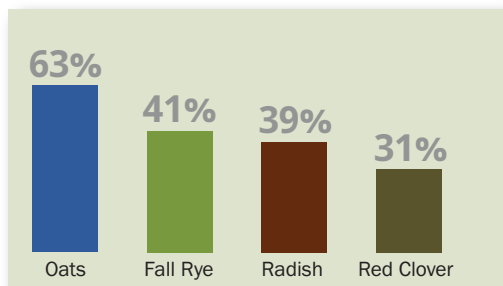
70% of farms that grew cover crops in 2020 grew them on up to 39% of their land

60% of farms that grew a cover crop did so following winter wheat.

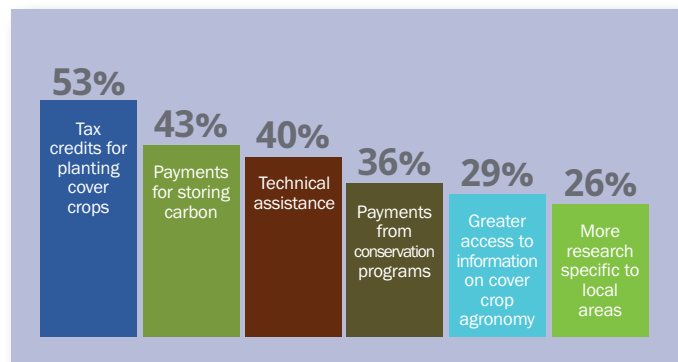
How to help encourage growth of cover crop usage

Common cover crops

The majority of respondents who grew cover crops in 2020 were as follows:



* Cover crops can be used alone or in mixes



* A total of 520 farms that grew cover crops in 2020 took part in the project. The project also heard from 211 farms that did not grow a cover crop in 2020. All stats are from the 2020 Ontario Cover Crop Feedback Report which can be found at <https://gfo.ca/agronomy/soil-leadership/>

** A special thank you to Dr. Yvonne Lawley and Callum Morrison from the University of Manitoba for conducting the survey and creating the report.