

# 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%)

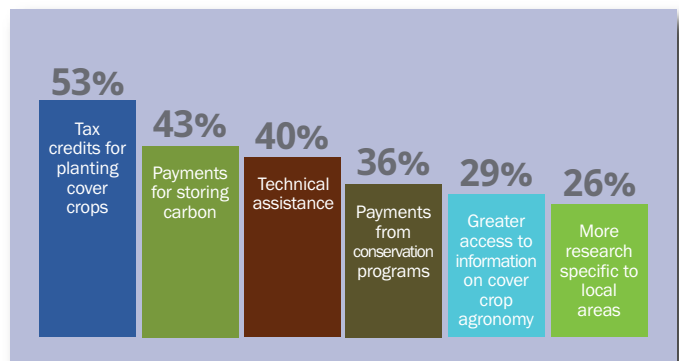
## Farmer-identified challenges to growing cover crops

- 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

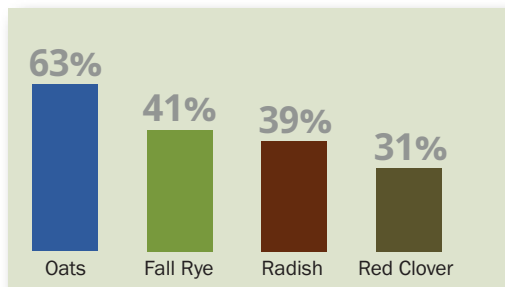
**60%** of farms that grew a cover crop did so following winter wheat.

## 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/>

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