

Healthy Lake Huron Lambton Shores Initiative
Project Requirements
Cover Crops

Cost-share Rate: 50%
Maximum Payment: \$500

Purpose:

- To improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and sediment and nutrient loss to watercourses and aquifers.

Eligible Projects:

- Landowners must establish a need to be eligible.
- Land must be actively cropped.
- **MUST BE IN LAMBTON SHORES**

Eligible Projects:

- Establishment of annual cover crops that will not be harvested for sale.
- The Healthy Lake Huron Lambton Shores Initiative encourages new projects. Projects will be considered by the Review Committee on a first come, first served basis, as well as conservation benefit.
- Invoice for cover crop seeds may not be older than 3 months of its receipt by SCRCA.
- A maximum of one project per property per landowner per year will be approved.

Project Details:

- To be eligible for the grant, an appropriate cover crop must be planted at a rate that will provide erosion protection.
- The cover crop must not be tilled before **March 15, 2015** (spraying is allowed as long as residue remains until March).
- Oilseed radish and spring cereals like oats are not appropriate cover crop choices after September 10, in order to achieve adequate soil protection. Winter cereals like wheat and rye are appropriate choices after September 10.
- A photo of the cover cropped field confirming adequate ground cover must be submitted no later than 6 weeks after planting (ideally between October 31 and November 6, 2014) to jvanzwol@scrca.on.ca

Eligible Costs:

- Appropriate cover crop seed costs.

Ineligible Costs:

- Property owner or tenant farmer's labour and equipment costs.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.

Cover Crop Function	Best choices for Cover Crops
Erosion protection (i.e. wind, water)	Winter rye, winter wheat, ryegrass (well established), spring barley, oats
Nitrogen scavenging	Fall uptake - Oilseed radish and other brassicas, oats Winter/spring uptake - rye, winter wheat
Soil structure building	Oats, overwintered winter rye, annual ryegrass
Biomass return to soil	Fall - oats, oilseed radish Summer - millets, sorghum sudan

Note: It is important to have a termination plan in place *before seeding!***

Species	Seeding Rate kg/ha	Normal Seeding Time	Minimum Germination Temperature °C	Nitrogen Fixed or Scavenged (F or S) ¹	Over-Wintering Characteristics	Building Soil Structure	Weed Suppression	Grazing Potential	Quick Growth	Root Type
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Grasses

Spring cereals	100-125	Mid-Aug-Sept	9	S	Killed by heavy frost	Good	Good	Very good	Very fast	Fibrous
Winter wheat	100-130	Sept-Oct	3	S	Over-winters very well	Good	Good	Very good	Fast	Fibrous
Winter rye	100-125	Sept-Oct	1	S	Over-winters very well	Very good	Very good	Very good	Very fast	Fibrous
Sorghum sudan	50	June-Aug	18	S	Killed by frost	Good	Good/Fair	Very good	Very fast	Coarse fibrous
Pearl millet	4	June-Aug	18	S	Killed by frost	Good	Good/Fair	Good	Fast	Coarse fibrous
Ryegrass	12-18	April-May or Aug-early Sept	4.5	S	Annual, Italian partially survive; Perennial over-winters	Very good	Fair/poor	Good	Slow to establish	Fibrous

Broadleaves - Legumes

Hairy vetch	20-30	Aug	15.6	F/S	Over-winters	Good	Fair/poor	C ²	Slow to establish	Tap with secondary fibrous
Red clover	8-10	March-April	5	F/S	Over-winters	Good	Fair	C ²	Slow to establish	Weak tap/fibrous
Sweet clover	8-10	March-April	5.5	F/S	Over-winters	Good	Fair	C ²	Slow to establish	Strong tap
Soybeans	40-50	Aug	8	F/S	Killed by frost	Poor	Good/fair	C ²	Fast	Tap
Field peas	40-100	Aug	5	F/S	Killed by heavy frost	Poor	Good/fair	C ²	Fast	Weak tap/fibrous

Broadleaves - Non-Legume

Buckwheat	50-60	June through Aug	10	S	Killed by first frost	Poor	Very good	Poor	Fast	Weak tap/fibrous
Oilseed radish	10-14	Mid-Aug-early Sept	7	S	Killed by heavy frost	Fair	Very good	Good	Fast	Moderate tap
Other brassicas, i.e., forage radish	Varies with species	Mid-Aug-early Sept	5 to 7	S	Species dependent, many killed by heavy frost	Fair	Very good	Good	Fast	Moderate tap

100 kg/ha = 90 lb/acre

¹ Oilseed radish, buckwheat and the grasses do not fix nitrogen from the air but are scavengers of nitrogen from soil and manure applications.

² Clover legumes make good feed or grazing, however feeding pure legumes can cause bloat.