

Soybean - Winter Camelina - Corn

Strategy:

- Plant winter camelina in the fall in fields that are harvested first
- Winter camelina is a good, over-wintering alternative cover crop to oats or cereal rye ahead of corn
- Camelina may be sensitive to spring-applied residual herbicides but as of fall 2022, we have not seen any impact of residual herbicides on our camelina trials
- Winter camelina is a very small seed (smaller than uncoated alfalfa) with a very low planting rate
- Camelina has a low C:N ratio, terminates easily, and decomposes quickly
- Camelina seed is small and dense - keep that in mind when adjusting machinery for planting and harvest

Step 1: Fall Prep and Seeding

- Harvest fields where camelina will be planted as early as possible in the fall
- If planting into corn residue, either break up residue or bale it so that camelina has better seed to soil contact
- If possible, try to plant between Sept. 15th and Oct. 15th but as late as early November is fine
- Seeding rate should be at least 4 lbs/acre (NRCS minimum) up to 8-12 lbs/acre for better soil coverage
- Drilling with alfalfa or small seed box is preferred - ¼ inch seeding depth - start at the smallest setting!
- High-clearance overseeding, broadcasting, or air seeding is possible:
 - Combine with a small grain if there is a minimum seeding weight
 - Use at least 30 lbs oats, 22.5 lbs of wheat or rye
 - Might need to use a carrier to keep camelina in suspension with oats/rye
 - Graphite box on seed tender is another possibility to mix seed with another species
- If using an air seeder, consider using canola meter for planting
- If broadcasting or overseeding, attempt to time with a fall rain in the forecast or use shallow incorporation with a fall fertilizer pass

Pro-tip: Camelina is a biennial mustard but it has the tendency to bolt and die over winter if planted too early. Ideal planting is early October to early November

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Step 2: Spring Termination

- Winter camelina is easily terminated with any broadleaf herbicide
- To jump start decomposition, terminate camelina at least 7 days ahead of planting
- As little as three days ahead of planting are needed to kill camelina and it is possible to combine killing camelina with spring burndown pass
- If termination is on schedule, no-till planting is generally not an issue with dead, brown winter camelina cover crop

Step 3: Spring Planting

- If wet or windy weather has delayed termination, planting “green” is a good option to get corn planted on time
- If planting “green,” prioritize terminating winter camelina on the first good weather day
- Winter camelina has a low C:N ratio, which means that the camelina will decompose quickly so starter nitrogen is not necessary if it is not part of your regular program

For information on advanced cover cropping or different species recommendations, contact our Conservation Agronomists!

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