



## Follow CoverCress Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q: I am currently out of your target area. When can I expect the chance to participate?**

A: In a few years. We are actively working to build markets inside and outside of our launch area. CoverCress™ varieties will grow most anywhere in the Midwest. CoverCress Inc. would like for our growers to have a good experience with harvest timing of CoverCress grain to allow for their follow-up crop to be planted timely. CoverCress Inc. also wants to ensure markets are available for delivery of the grain.

**Q: Where will our grain collection points be located?**

A: CoverCress Inc. is developing partnerships with grain handlers to be at the ready for the first contracted growers in the fall of 2022. As part of the contract to grow a CoverCress crop, growers will be told the location to which they should deliver their grain. Our goal is to have collection facilities no farther than 25 miles from the contracted grower.

**Q: How could growing a CoverCress crop impact my early planted beans?**

A: Consider CoverCress seed on a portion of your acres that would require a bit later planting of beans as a hedge for some of your early planted soybean acres. CoverCress Inc. does not expect to be on all acres of a farming enterprise. We are targeting a net return opportunity of \$50/ac on the acres seeded to CoverCress to provide growers with a new economic opportunity before a bean crop is planted.

**Q: Have you evaluated intercropping/relay seeding of beans into a CoverCress™ crop?**

A: We are doing research trials to study the impact of seeding soybeans into growing CoverCress seed early in its spring growth cycle. We will continue to learn more about how this impact the yields of both crops and will be sharing that data as it is available.

**Q: How big is a CoverCress seed?**

A: A single grain of CoverCress seed is extremely small, measuring roughly 1 mm in diameter compared to soybean seed which ranges from 5 to 11 mm.

**Q: Do I need to apply a desiccant in the spring to help with maturation?**

A: The application of a desiccant to help with maturation is not necessary with CoverCress seed. Seed pods will turn from green to yellow three to four weeks following flowering, depending on temperature. The pods will then turn to a tan/grey color near harvest and should be harvested when moisture is near 16 to 20%. It is important to note that the final oil fill in the CoverCress plant occurs in the last stages of the plant's development and maturation. If the plant is terminated too early this could affect the amount and quality of the oil. Since oil is the most important value contributor for CoverCress grain, special care should be considered with alternative termination methods.

**Q: Is there any value to the residue after harvest?**

A: CoverCress residue is not valuable as a straw as this crop puts most of its energy into seed formation and grain. The residue following CoverCress harvest does not require any tillage or crimping for a good stand of the following soybean crop to establish.

**Q: Is the only needed nitrogen application the one in the spring?**

A: Yes. CoverCress plants can utilize residual nitrogen in the soil carried over from the preceding corn crop, which can prevent loss of nitrogen from leaching and gaseous emissions. In the spring, CoverCress recommends an application of 50 lbs. of nitrogen per acre as the crop is beginning its rapid growth cycle and entering the bolting growth phase.

**Q: What about following wheat with CoverCress?**

A: CoverCress seeding could follow wheat harvest. It would be recommended to size the wheat residue prior to seeding CoverCress seed to ensure the seed is making it to the soil surface for best possible stand. Also note that seeding should still occur after Labor Day as summer seeding will not result in a plant that will produce grain.

**Q: How do herbicides like 2,4-D and Dicamba impact CoverCress?**

A: 2,4-D and Dicamba will kill the CoverCress plant. Special care should be taken when applying these herbicides near a growing CoverCress™ field. Data also show CoverCress plants are especially susceptible to HPPD herbicide carryover and fields should be selected with this in mind. The mode of action in HPPD (Isoxalone, Pyrazolone, Triketone) herbicides has been shown to impact CoverCress plant development at the seedling stage and could likely impact yield if damage is significant enough.



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**Q: Should I be worried about volunteer CoverCress affecting the following crop?**

A: Volunteer CoverCress is not a competitive weed for the following crop as it is easy to kill with herbicides and/or tillage. Without cold weather it will not be vernalized and thus will not enter its normal rapid growth phase. It is likely that any volunteer CoverCress will ultimately die on its own due to summer seasonal conditions. It may be possible to plant your following crop directly into the harvested residue immediately following harvest of the CoverCress crop depending on your emerged situation. It is still recommended to apply a pre-emergence or early post-emergence herbicide for the following crop to manage typical summer annual weeds in the following crop.

**Q: Does CoverCress provide my soil with any agronomic benefits? What is the root structure like?**

A: Improved soil tilth, nutrient capture, and soil protection from spring erosion are a few benefits from growing the CoverCress crop. It has a fibrous taproot.

**Q: What agronomic support will CoverCress provide me as a grower?**

A: CoverCress Inc. is developing a network of partners who will help provide local support. This will include grower contract support and agronomic support through CoverCress. CoverCress will also have staff agronomists who will be available for training and support as well.

**Q: What happens if it looks like I do not have a good stand? How and when is a decision made whether to take the CoverCress crop to harvest?**

A: CoverCress Inc. will work with contracted growers to determine if fields that have poor stands are viable enough to take to harvest. CoverCress Inc. and the grower will make this decision prior to the spring nitrogen application. This will allow the grower to plant their alternative crop in a timely manner in the spring. We would recommend a stand of at least 4 plants per square foot to have the best opportunity for reaching yield goals.

**Q: Pennycress is listed as a restricted noxious weed in some states. Which ones in the Midwest market have this issue and how are you working to address it?**

A: Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois have each listed field pennycress as “agricultural seed” when intentionally planted. In addition, there are no restrictions on the planting of field pennycress in Missouri. CoverCress Inc. is currently addressing the issue in states where pennycress is listed as a noxious weed. For example Indiana, Ohio and Kansas all have field pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*) listed as a restricted noxious weed. Indiana allows for registration of a permit for growing field pennycress. This permit can be applied for from the Indiana State Seed Chemist office. We encourage growers where field pennycress is listed as a restricted noxious weed to reach out to their State Ag Department and express interest in growing CoverCress seed. Unlike wild pennycress, the potential weediness characteristics are substantially reduced in domesticated CoverCress varieties.

**Q: How late can you plant CoverCress seed and how late can you push planting?**

A: For the launch area of central Illinois, planting could begin after Labor Day and should be completed by Oct. 10 at the latest. Adequate rainfall is critical to stand establishment. Warm weather and daylight also significantly influence all growth and stand establishment.

**Q: How much carbon do CoverCress varieties sequester on a numerical scale? What are the economic benefits of carbon sequestration for my operation?**

A: We are still learning about how much carbon CoverCress varieties sequester but we estimate about 1 ton/ac of carbon is sequestered. We are still learning about the carbon markets as this a rapidly developing and changing topic. As we learn more, we will share this with our growers. Our expectation is that a significant portion of the value associated with carbon sequestered when planting CoverCress seed should be retained by the grower.