

Oregon-Quality  
**ANNUAL RYEGRASS**

# Aerial Seeding

## Benefits of Aerial Seeding of Ryegrass and other cover crops:

- Cover many acres fast – 1,200-1,400 per day, on a good day
- Earlier seeding allows crop time to establish vs. waiting to drill
- Less expensive than drilling

“For the number of acres you can cover with aerial seeding cover crops and the excellent timing, I don't think you can beat using an airplane.”

**Jamie Scott**

*J.A. Scott Farms*

*Pierceton, Indiana*

*No-tills 2,000 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat*

*Manages 55,000-60,000 acres of aerial-seeded cover crops a year*



“Flying on annual ryegrass gets the roots established before we start combining corn, if we get a rain.”

**Cameron Mills**

*Walton, Indiana*

*No-tills 3,500 acres of corn and soybeans*



For more information, including a detailed management guide for ryegrass as a cover crop, check the website of the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission:

**RyegrassCovercrop.com**

# Oregon-Quality ANNUAL RYEGRASS

## Aerial Seeding *(Continued)*



### Jamie Scott, Cover Crops on All Acres Since 2004

For the number of acres you can cover with aerial seeding cover crops and the excellent timing, I don't think you can beat using an airplane. Lots of people think drilling's cheaper, but drilling costs \$14-16 per acre when you include the full costs.

When my Dad and I committed to seeding every acre of ours to cover crops 10 years ago, we started with a drill. Drilling took us all day for 30 acres of cover crops. It would take us two weeks to drill all of our acres with cover crops, after we finished harvest. And by that time, it would be November and the opportunities for a cover crop to germinate and grow would be very limited.

Try aerial because it will work. It takes time for you and for the pilots to get good at seeding and managing cover crops, but don't give up. Seeding cover crops always beats not doing it.

We've come to rely on annual ryegrass in mixes: annual ryegrass and crimson clover; annual ryegrass and rape; annual ryegrass and turnips. I think annual ryegrass overwinters better when seeded with crimson clover.

Ryegrass has more root mass than cereal rye. Don't just look at the plant material above ground, but dig the roots and see for yourself. We see it time and time again with our customers that ryegrass holds more soil than cereal rye.

For cover crops seeded by plane or high-clearance, you need to get sun on the ground for the ryegrass to grow. Some people claim that drilling is the perfect way to seed cover crops. That's like saying in a perfect world, all of your corn will be planted by May 15 every year. That doesn't happen.

We'd love to have 100 percent germination from aerial or high-clearance seeding into standing corn and soybeans, but seeding cover crops this way beats seeding nothing with a drill.



**Jamie Scott**  
*J.A. Scott Farms  
Pierceton, Indiana*

### Cameron Mills, Cover Cropping Since 2006

With aerial, we can cover so many acres in a day – 1,200 to 1,400 a day, per plane, on a good day – if the weather is good.

Flying on annual ryegrass gets the roots established before we start combining corn, if we get a rain.

I like ryegrass because you're flying on 25 pounds per acre vs. 50-60 pounds per acre of cereal rye, which costs more and has more volume. I also like ryegrass because unlike cereal rye it doesn't have an allopathic effect on corn and because cereal rye has more mass above ground than annual rye. If cereal rye



**Cameron Mills**  
*Walton, Indiana*



suddenly grows from six to 24 inches in the spring, then you've got a higher carbon-to-nitrogen ratio, which ties up N. And if it turns hot and dry, then the cereal rye sucks up too much moisture.

I've also drilled cover crops and tested a Hagie high-clearance cover crop seeder in the fall of 2013.

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