

TECHNICAL NOTE

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Cover Crop Resources and Seed Vendors for Oregon and Washington

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Soil health management is a growing concern for many farmers, ranchers, and land managers in Oregon and Washington. Cover crops can be an integral part of a soil health management system by adding plant diversity to a crop rotation. Cover crops have the potential to increase soil microbial diversity, feed the soil food web for a longer period, and provide plant residue which may help with soil moisture management, reducing temperatures, preventing surface crusting, and suppressing weeds. According to the NRCS Cover Crop Practice Standard (340), purposes of a cover crop include:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water.
- Increase soil organic matter content.
- Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile.
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation and reduce energy use.
- Increase biodiversity.
- Pest and/or weed suppression.
- Soil moisture management.
- Reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere.
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction.

The intent of this Technical Note is to facilitate the use of cover crops in Oregon and Washington by providing a list of cover crop seed vendors for the Pacific Northwest, including sources of organic seed (Part A), and a list of reputable online resources for growers and conservationists to learn more about selecting, using, and managing cover crops in Oregon and Washington (Part B).

Part A. Cover Crop Seed Vendors for Oregon and Washington

Below is a list of cover crop seed vendors and wholesale seed companies serving Oregon and Washington. Users of this list should note that this is only a partial listing of seed sources (retailers and wholesalers) for each state. If you find the information to be inaccurate, please contact Annie Young-Mathews at (541) 757-4812 or Anna.Young-Mathews@or.usda.gov, or Pamela Pavek at (509) 335-6894 or Pamela.Pavek@wa.usda.gov, with the accurate information so the list can be updated. This list does not constitute an endorsement of the vendors, nor does it guarantee the reliability or quality of products.

Oregon Retailers:

Andrews Seed Company

580 S. Oregon St, Ontario, OR 97914
Phone: 541-889-9109 or 800-240-8887
Fax: 541-889-6470

Website: <http://www.andrewsseed.com>

Legumes, cereal grains, brassicas,
grasses

Emerald Seed & Supply

6535 NE 11th St, Redmond, OR 97756
Mailing: PO Box 215, Terrebonne, OR
97760

Phone: 800-826-8873 or 541-504-0307

Email: emeraldss@ykw.net

Website:

<http://www.emeraldseedandsupply.com>

Grasses and legumes

Hobbs & Hopkins Ltd.

1712 SE Ankeny St., Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 800-345-3295 or 503-239-7518

Fax: 503-296-5528

Email: info@protimelawnseed.com

Website:

<http://www.protimelawnseed.com>

Grasses

Outside Pride

915 N. Main, Independence, OR 97351

Phone: 800-670-4192

Fax: 503-606-0659

Website: <http://www.outsidepride.com>

Legumes, buckwheat, ryegrass,
pollinator plants, ground covers

Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc.

4600 NW McKennon Rd

Pendleton, OR 97801

Phone: 541-278-5077

Email: seed@pggcountry.com

Website: <http://www.pggcountry.com>

Grains, canola, alfalfa, peas, grasses

Riverview Seed Co.

84917 Hwy 37, Hermiston, OR 97838

Phone: 541-564-0366

Email: rvseed@eotnet.net

Cereal grains, grasses

Round Butte Seed/Helena Chemical Co.

505 C Street, Culver, OR 97734

Phone: 541-546-5222 or 866-475-6692

Website: <http://www.helenaculver.com>

Cereal grains, legumes, broadleaves,
grasses

Sunmark Seeds

18032 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR
97230
Phone: 503-241-7333 or 888-214-7333
Fax: 503-491-0279
Email: info@sunmarkseeds.com
Website: <http://sunmarkseeds.co>
Legumes, cereal grains, grasses

Territorial Seed Company

PO Box 158, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Phone: 800-626-0866
Fax: 888-657-3131
Email: info@territorialseed.com
Website: <http://www.territorialseed.com>
Legumes, brassicas, cereal grains (some organic)

Washington Retailers:

Clearwater Seed

827 W 1st Ave, Suite 307
Spokane, WA 99201
Phone: 509-343-3108 or 866-440-5431
Fax: 509-343-3109
Email: clearwaterseed@comcast.net
Website: <http://www.clearwaterseed.com>
Diverse selection of legumes, small grains, ryegrass, brassicas, broadleaves, and native insectary mixes

Grassland West

PO Box 489, Clarkston, WA 99403
Phone: 509-758-9100
Fax: 509-758-6601
Website: <http://www.grasslandwest.com>
Legumes, brassicas, cereal grains, forage grasses

Your Local Farmers Co-op, Farm Supply, or Feed & Seed

Usually offer a limited selection of small grains and legumes (often common types rather than named/improved varieties)

Great Basin Seed

1040 Russell Rd, Mesa, WA 99343
Phone: 509-265-4250
Brassicas, buckwheat

High Performance Seed, Inc.

201 E 3rd Ave #210
Moses Lake, WA 98837
Phone: 509-765-9672
Brassicas

L & H Seeds, Inc.

4756 West SR 260, Connell, WA 99326
Phone: 509-234-4433
Fax: 509-234-0202
Email: info@lhseeds.com
Website: <http://www.lhseeds.com>
Diverse selection of legumes, small grains, brassicas, broadleaves, turf & forage grasses, and native grasses and wildflowers

McCleane Seed Co.

9516 SR 17 N, Coulee City, WA 99115
Phone: 509-632-8709
Email: jmcleaneed@gmail.com
Legumes, brassicas, cereal grains, forage
grasses

McKay Seed Company, Inc.

2945 Rd "N" NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837
Phone: 509-766-9894 or 800-258-4599
Fax: 509-766-9897
Website: <http://www.mckayseed.com>
Brassicas and buckwheat

Osborne Seed Company, LLC.

2428 Old Hwy 99 S. Rd
Mt Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: 360-424-7333
Fax: 360-424-8900
Email: cosborne@osborneseed.com
Website: <http://www.osborneseed.com>
Diverse selection of legumes, cereal
grains, broadleaves, and insectary
flowers

Rainier Seeds, Inc.

1404 4th St, Davenport, WA 99122
Phone: 509-725-1235
Fax: 509-725-7015
Email: rainierseeds@rainierseeds.com
Website: <http://www.rainierseeds.com>
Diverse selection of legumes, small
grains, brassicas, broadleaves, turf &
forage grasses, and native grasses and
wildflowers

Seeds, Inc.

PO Box 866, Tekoa, WA 99033
Phone: 509-284-2848
Fax: 509-284-6464
Email: kathy@plantsofthewild.com
Website:

<http://www.plantsofthewild.com>

Diverse selection of legumes, small
grains, brassicas, broadleaves, turf &
forage grasses, and native grasses and
wildflowers

Spectrum Crop Development

57 N Marcellus Road, Ritzville, WA
99169
Phone: (509) 659-1757
Email: ecfarms@ritzville.com
Mustard, canola, sunflower, safflower

**Your Local Farmers Co-op, Farm
Supply, or Feed & Seed**

Usually offer a limited selection of small
grains and legumes (often common
types rather than named/improved
varieties)

California Retailers (serving southern Oregon):

A.L. Gilbert - Farmers

Warehouse

P.O. Box 160, Keyes, CA 95328
Phone: 209-632-2333 or 800-400-6377
Fax: 209-634-6341
Website: <http://farmerswarehouse.com>
Forage, pasture & cover crop mixes;
alfalfa, small grains

Hearne Seeds

512 Metz Rd, King City, CA 93930
Phone: 800-253-7346
Email: seedsales@hearneco.com
Website: <http://www.hearneseed.com>
Legumes, brassicas, cereal grains, forage
grasses (some organic)

Kamprath Seeds, Inc.

205 Stockton St, Manteca, CA 95337
Phone: 209-823-6242
Fax: 209-823-2582
Email: alan@kamprathseed.com
Legumes, cereal grains, brassicas,
grasses

S & S Seeds, Inc.

P.O. Box 1275, Carpinteria, CA 93014
Phone: 805-684-0436
Fax: 805-684-2798
Email: info@ssseeds.com
Website: <http://www.ssseeds.com>
Clovers, lupines, Phacelia, natives

Organic Cover Crop Seed Vendors

Harmony Farm Supply & Nursery

PO Box 460, Graton, CA 95444

Phone: 707-823-9125

Email: info@harmonyfarm.com

Website: <http://www.harmonyfarm.com>

Diverse selection of organic & non-organic legumes, mustard, cereal grains, pasture grasses, and insectary flowers

High Mowing Organic Seeds

76 Quarry Rd, Wolcott, VT 05680

Phone: 802-472-6174

Fax: 802-472-3201

Email:

questions@highmowingseeds.com

Website:

<http://www.highmowingseeds.com>

Diverse selection of organic legumes, cereal grains, broadleaves, grasses, and insectary flowers

Johnny's Selected Seeds

955 Benton Ave, Winslow, ME 04901

Phone: 877-564-6697

Website: <http://www.johnnyseeds.com>

Diverse selection of organic & non-organic legumes, cereal grains, broadleaves, and insectary flowers

Naomi's Organic Farm Supply

2615 SE Schiller St, Portland, OR 97202

Phone: 503-517-8551

Fax: 503-546-9755

Email: order@naomisorganic.com

Website:

<http://naomisorganic.blogspot.com>

Diverse selection of organic & non-organic legumes, cereal grains, broadleaves, and grasses

Nash's Organic Produce

4681 Sequim-Dungeness Way

Sequim, WA 98382

Phone: 360-683-4642

Fax: 360-683-6807

Email: sales@nashsorganicproduce.com

Website:

<http://nashsorganicproduce.com>

Organic legumes and cereal grains

Osborne Seed Company, LLC.

2428 Old Hwy 99 S. Rd

Mt Vernon, WA 98273

Phone: 360-424-7333

Fax: 360-424-8900

Email: cosborne@osborneseed.com

Website: <http://www.osborneseed.com>

Diverse selection of organic & non-organic legumes, cereal grains, broadleaves, and insectary flowers

Peaceful Valley Farm Supply

PO Box 2209, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: 888-784-1722

Email: helpdesk@groworganic.com

Website: <http://www.groworganic.com>

Diverse selection of organic & non-organic legumes, cereal grains, brassicas, grasses, broadleaves, and insectary flowers; inoculant

Welter Seed & Honey Co.

17724 Hwy. 136, Onslow, IA 52321

Phone: 563-485-2762 or 800-728-8450

Fax: 563-485-2764

Email: info@welterseed.com

Website: <http://www.welterseed.com>

Diverse selection of organic & non-organic legumes, brassicas, cereal grains, grasses, and broadleaves; inoculant

Wholesale Seed Companies in the Pacific Northwest

Wholesale seed companies carrying cover crop products with regional distributors (often targeted at the Midwest), but may offer some direct sales.

Ampac Seed Company

PO Box 318, Tangent, OR 97389
Email: info@ampacseed.com
Website: <http://www.ampacseed.com>
Forage, ryegrass, radish

Bailey Seed Company, Inc.

PO Box 12788, Salem, OR 97309
Phone: 800-407-7713
Email: info@baileyseed.com
Website: <http://www.baileyseed.com>
Legumes, buckwheat, cereal rye, ryegrass

Barenbrug USA

33477 Oregon 99E, Tangent, OR 97389
Phone: 541-926-5801 or 800-547-4101
Website: <http://www.barusa.com/forage>
Clovers, alfalfa, brassicas, forage grasses

Cal/West Seeds (Dow)

38001 Co. Rd 27, Woodland, CA 95695
Phone: 530-666-3331
Website: <http://www.calwestseeds.com>
Alfalfa, clover, safflower, sorghum-
sudangrass, teff grass

DLF Organic

175 West H St, Halsey, OR 97348
Phone: 800-445-2251
Email: info@dlforganic.com
Website: <http://www.dlforganic.com>
Organic clovers, forage grasses, mixes

Grassland Oregon

PO Box 17219, Salem, OR 97305
Phone: 503-566-9900
Email: info@grasslandoregon.com
Website: <http://www.grasslandoregon.com>
Legumes, brassicas, buckwheat, ryegrass,
Phacelia, cereal rye

KB Seed Solutions

25432 Rowland Rd, Harrisburg, OR 97446
Phone: 866-716-7333
Website: <http://kbseedsolutions.com>
Radish, turnip, peas, clover, annual ryegrass

Legacy Seeds, Inc.

2818 Brandt Ave, Nampa, ID 83651
Phone: 877-588-7621
Website: <http://www.legacyseeds.com>
Brassicas, cereal grains, legumes, alfalfa,
sudangrass, turf & forage grasses/mixes

Lewis Seed Co.

31810 Fayetteville Dr, Shedd, OR 97377
Phone: 541-491-3700
Email: bdozler@lewisseed.com
Website:
<http://www.lewisseed.com/products.html>
Brassicas, legumes, turf & forage grasses

OreGro Seeds, Inc.

33080 Red Bridge Rd SE,
Albany, OR 97322
Phone: 541-258-1001
Email: joemacjr@oregroseeds.com
Website:
<http://www.oregroseeds.com/forage.html>
Legumes, cereal grains, turf/forage grasses

Saddle Butte Ag, Inc.

PO Box 50, Shedd, OR 97377
Phone: 541-928-0102
Email: seed@saddlebutte.com
Website:
<http://www.saddlebutte.com/cover-crops>
Ryegrass, legumes, brassicas, cereal grains

Seed Research of Oregon

33095 Hwy 99E, Tangent, OR 97389
Phone: 541-757-2663
Website: <http://www.sroseed.com>
Turf grasses, legumes

Weaver Seed of Oregon

PO Box 67, Crabtree, OR 97335

Phone: 541-924-9701 Email:

weavertrees@msn.com

Website: <http://www.weaverseed.com>

Brassicas, peas, triticale, oats, favas, annual ryegrass

Part B. Cover Crop Resources for Oregon and Washington

National Cover Crop Resources:

SARE – Cover Crops Topic Room—Collection of educational materials developed out of decades of SARE-funded cover crop research. <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topic-Rooms/Cover-Crops>

Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition, 2007. A. Clark, ed., SARE. This comprehensive book explores how and why cover crops work and provides all the information needed to build cover crops into any farming operation. (Free downloadable pdf) <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition>

Building Soils for Better Crops, 3rd Edition. 2010. F. Magdoff and H. Van Es. Another great book from SARE that is a practical guide to ecological soil management, providing step-by-step information on soil-improving practices as well as in-depth background—from what soil is to the importance of organic matter. (Free downloadable pdf) <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Soils-for-Better-Crops-3rd-Edition>

ATTRA – National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, a program of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)—Many publications and other resources on cover crops, soil health assessment and improvement, and general sustainable agriculture topics. <https://attra.ncat.org/>

Overview of cover crops and green manures. 2003. P. Sullivan. Publication summarizing the principal uses and benefits of cover crops and green manures. (16 pages, available for purchase) <http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/covercrop.html>

eXtension – Articles, webinars, videos, and “Ask-an-Expert” for information from Land Grant Universities on agricultural topics, including cover crops.

<https://www.extension.org/>

Oregon State University Extension & Small Farms Program Resources:

Using Cover Crops in Oregon. 1998. R. Sattell. EM 8704—Information on cover cropping systems and cover crop species for Oregon.

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/24506/EMNO8704.pdf?sequence=1>

Organic Fertilizer and Cover Crop Calculator. N. Andrews, D. Sullivan, J. Julian and K. Pool. This free online tool compares the nutrient value and cost of cover crops, organic and synthetic fertilizers and compost. Use this Excel Calculator to develop well balanced and cost effective nutrient management programs for your farm.

<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/calculator>

Cover Crops for Home Gardens. 1999. R.L. Rackham and R. McNeilan. FS 304. Simple 2-page fact sheet on the basics of cover cropping for home gardeners.

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/17462/fs304-e.pdf>

Forage Information System—Comprehensive, searchable database on forage research, educational opportunities, and professional resources worldwide.

<http://forages.oregonstate.edu/>

Washington State University Extension Resources:

Cover Crops as a Floor Management Strategy for Pacific Northwest Vineyards. 2006. M.A. Olmstead. EB2010.

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2010/eb2010.pdf>

Mustard Green Manures – A collection of publications, resources, on-farm research, and field day materials A. McGuire. <http://csanr.wsu.edu/mustard-green-manures/>

Planting Date Guide for Winter Wheat Cover Crops to Control Wind Erosion in the Columbia Basin. 2008. H. Kok et al. EB2030E.

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2030e/eb2030e.pdf>

Reduced Tillage for Green Manure Legumes. 1989. R. Veseth. PNW Conservation Tillage Handbook Series.

<http://pnwsteep.wsu.edu/tillagehandbook/chapter2/021489.htm>

Using Green Manures in Potato Cropping Systems. 2003. A. McGuire. EB1951E.

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1951e/EB1951E.pdf>

University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP) Resources:

Cover Crops Database—A searchable database containing information on over 40 crop species that can be used as cover crops.

<http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/database/covercrops>



Cover Crop Papers and Publications—Newsletter articles and publications on cover crop selection, biology, and management.

<http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/covercrop/res/cover-crop-publications/cover-crop-papers-and-publications/>

USDA-NRCS and ARS Resources:

Cover Crop Chart (aka Periodic Table of Cover Crops) – ARS

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/docs.htm?docid=20323>

Cover Crops and Soil Health—Termination guidelines, study progress reports, cover crop Plant Guides, and additional resources from the NRCS National Soil Health and Sustainability Team and the Plant Materials Program.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/landuse/crops/?cid=stelprdb1077238>

Crop Nutrient Tool—Calculates the approximate amount of N, P, and K that is removed by the harvest of agricultural crops. <https://plants.usda.gov/npk/main>

PLANTS Database—List of cover crops and Plant Guides for most commonly used species. <https://plants.usda.gov/java/coverCrops>

OR NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 13: *Plants for Pollinators in Oregon* (2008).

Includes a list of cover crops attractive to native pollinators and beneficial insects.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmstn7451.pdf

WA NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 14: *Conservation Cover Technology - 14.1*

Principal Uses of Cover Crops and Green Manures, and 14.2 Conservation Covers for Vineyards and Orchards (2005)

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn6338.pdf

WA NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 22: *The Potential for Legume Cover Crops in Washington Apple Orchards* (2014)

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn12149.pdf

WA NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 2: *Winter Cover Crops for the Irrigated Sandy Soils in the Columbia Basin* (1986)

http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/WA/A.2Winter_Cover_Crops_for_Irrigated_Sandy_Soils.pdf

WA NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 8: *Late Fall Seeded Cover Crop Trials* (1996)

http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/WA/A.8Late_Fall_Seeded_Cover_Crop_Trials.pdf



WA NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 10: *Planting Dates for the Fall Cover Crops in the Irrigated Columbia Basin* (2000)

[http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/WA/A.10 Planting Dates for Fall Cover Crops.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/WA/A.10%20Planting%20Dates%20for%20Fall%20Cover%20Crops.pdf)

WA NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 11: *Wind Erosion Control in Washington Potatoes* (1994)

[http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WA/A.11Wind Erosion Control in WA Potatoes.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WA/A.11Wind%20Erosion%20Control%20in%20WA%20Potatoes.pdf)

WA and ID NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 56: *Cover Crops* (2010)

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/idpmstn10095.pdf

Organic Cover Cropping Resources:

Cover Crop (340) in Organic Systems: Oregon Implementation Guide. 2014. NRCS, NCAT, The Xerces Society, and Oregon Tilth. <http://tilth.org/files/r-e/ocp/oregon-resources/cover-crop-in-organic-systems-oregon-implementation-guide>

eOrganic – The organic agriculture community of practice for eXtension– searchable/interactive website and database of articles, webinars, videos, and “Ask-an-Expert”. <http://eorganic.info/>

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For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the [State Information/Hotline Numbers](#).

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