

Iowa Bulletin: 180-24-1

Date: 10/18/2023

Subject: CPA–Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Waiver for Winter Hardy  
Cover Crop Seeding Dates

**Purpose:** To provide a waiver for FY 2024 seeding dates for cover crops that typically overwinter in Iowa when seeded after corn or soybeans.

**Expiration Date:** June 1, 2024.

**Background:** Planning between the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the producer are critical to implementing cover crops successfully on their farm. Adjusting a cropping system to incorporate cover crops must be done strategically to gain benefit without disrupting the system. Seeding outside the recommended seeding windows adds additional risk to establishing and gaining benefit from cover crops.

**Explanation:** A winter hardy cover crop species can be certified as applied if it is seeded by the last published seeding date listed in the CPS 340 Cover Crop Implementation Requirement, “340\_IA\_IR\_Cover\_Crop\_2021.xlsm” found in Section 4 of the Field Office Technical Guide.

Seeding windows for cover crops were developed using historical weather records to provide a high confidence of establishing the species when seeded within these windows. Seeding after the published dates decreases survivability and establishment probability.

A producer will be allowed to seed winter hardy cover crop species or mixes after the last published seeding date and prior to December 21, 2023, if they acknowledge the additional risk and will incorporate strategies into the management system to increase success. Producer acknowledgement may be verbal, email, signed statement or signature at the bottom of this waiver.

The conversation and strategies the producer will use to increase the likelihood of success and benefit from the cover crop will be documented in the CPA-6 notes. The cover crop may be certified when seeded.

**Contact:** If you have questions about the contents of this bulletin, please contact Michael Henderson, State Resource Conservationist, at 515-323-2292.

