

CUSTOM MIXED FOR YOUR SUCCESS

Eastern Colorado Seeds is much more than just a seed warehouse, it's also a brand new state of the art custom blending and packaging facility. An all new XX,XXX square foot facility with two blending and packaging lines stands at the ready to create user-specified cover crop mixtures. In addition to the ability to blend and package for your specific needs, ECS also offers the expertise if you have ideas or questions regarding a cover crop mixture. Turn to us for a successful cover crop product and season.

MIX VERSUS STRAIGHT

At Eastern Colorado Seeds we believe that there are many different approaches to solving your cover crop needs. But the key is to put yourself in the best position for success and the means planting more than one variety. One variety can be simple to manage but if something goes wrong, it all goes wrong. Planting a mixture, or even a blend of the same species gives you the flexibility to weather any potential pit-falls. Trust the ECS mixtures or create your own for success.



Eastern Colorado Seeds brand new, state-of-the-art blending and packaging facility in Burlington.



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EASTERN COLORADO SEEDS

Eastern Colorado Seeds (ECS) is a seed distribution company of cool season perennial forage, turf and other agricultural seeds. In addition to sales ECS also offers custom blending and packaging of seed products at it's state of the art facility in Burlington, Colorado. This facility allows ECS to blend regionally specific products for all agricultural needs and it's central location cuts down on delivery time and costs versus shipping from the west coast or deep south. ECS and it's sales representatives cover 8 states (Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Utah).

PRODUCTS YOU CAN COUNT ON

At the heart of all Eastern Colorado Seeds premium product's are the top-performing, high-quality varieties, selected from the most recognized seed genetic's companies around the world. Only genetically pure varieties are chosen - this ensures that what you are buying is what is in the bag. Inferior products often contain varieties whose background's are not known and thus the products results can not be assured or predicted. In addition ECS only purchases seed that is mechanically pure - this means no weed seeds to contaminate your plantings ECS prides itself on providing the best products you can rely on.

YOUR LOCAL SEED EXPERT

At Eastern Colorado Seeds we do much more than simply sell seed. We pride ourselves on being solution providers to the agricultural community. We have over 50 years experience providing our local community with solutions to their seed needs. Whether it's a water efficient lawn seed for a landscape company in Denver or a non-toxic tall fescue pasture blend for a dairy in Kansas City, ECS can solve all your seed needs.



# Cover Crop Benefits

Cover crops are grown primarily for reasons other than short term economic gain. In other words, cover crops are not produced for sale, but rather for the benefits they provide to the production of subsequent cash crops. Cover crops are so-called because they protect otherwise bare soil against erosion. Cover crops are also called “green manure” since they are integrated back into the soil they increase fertility. Below is a list of benefits to using a cover crop.

- Weed Control** – Cover Crops can assist with weed suppression through competition, smothering, or alleopathic effects.
- Recycling of Nutrients** – Cover Crops can scavenge available nutrients, convert the nutrients to biomass, and then when incorporated back into the soil, made available to the following crop. In addition to preventing the loss of nutrients to leaching, Cover Crops can recapture nutrients from the lower soil profile, and return them to the upper soil profile.
- Nitrogen Capture** – Legume Cover Crops, by hosting beneficial rhizobium on their roots are able to capture atmospheric nitrogen , and use the Nitrogen to fuel their own growth. As the legume biomass is returned to the soil, this nitrogen is made available to following crops. Legumes can generate up to 200 lbs of N/acre/year.
- Soil Organic Matter** – Cover Crops can return substantial levels of organic matter to soil, increasing soil tilth, improving soil aerations, and feeding soil microorganisms.
- Soil Compaction** – Cover Crops roots can reduce soil compaction, either with fibrous roots that fracture the soil in the upper profile, or tap roots that penetrate plow pans, and reach into the lower soil profile. The increased soil macro-pores allow rain to penetrate the soil and reduce run-off. The roots of following crops can follow these soil macro-pores deeper into the soil profile and increase nutrient uptake and drought tolerance.
- Soil Erosion** – Cover Crops can reduce soil erosion caused by wind, water run-off, and rain drop impact.
- Nematode Control** – Some Cover Crops can substantially reduce harmful nematodes. One method of control may include natural nematode resistance where nematodes are unable to find a host and die. A few Cover Crops serve as a nematode trap host, where nematodes are unable to complete their life cycle.
- Soil Biodiversity** – Cover Crops can maintain or increase soil biodiversity, either to compliment crop monocultures, or provide soil nutrients during fallow periods between crops.

## Featured Variety Descriptions

### Sun Hemp

Sun Hemp is used as a nitrogen-fixing green manure to improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion, conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds and nematodes, and recycle plant nutrients. It grows quickly and can produce more than 5,000 lb. dry matter/acre and 120 lb. nitrogen/acre in 9–12 weeks

### Clover

Clover as a cover crop has several benefits, including contributing up to 120 pounds of soil nitrogen for the following crop rotation. Clover also reduces soil erosion and surface water pollution all while increasing soil organic matter, improving soil tilth and increasing water holding capacities Clover can also greatly reduce grass and broadleaf weed pressure.

### Ethiopian Cabbage

Ethiopian Cabbage is a very unique plant in that it is a deep rooted crop like other brassicas (radish, turnip, etc) but it does not break down and decompose quickly like a radish or turnip. Ethiopian cabbage provides a deep root but also a long lasting residue that offers protection to young crops.

### Sorghum Sudangrass

Sorghum sudangrass are midsummer grasses suitable for 8-10 week plantings. They are the most heat and drought-tolerant cover crops. These crops provide abundant root biomass, which is useful for increasing soil organic matter, especially carbon. They suppress root knot nematodes and inhibit weed germination if densely sown.

### Radish

The Radish primary benefit is its ability to perform “bio-tillage.” Its big taproot greatly disturbs soil in the upper eight inches. The radish decomposes quickly in the spring, leaving large holes in the soil. This can be beneficial for no-till growers, or others looking to reduce spring tillage. The taproot may also help with soil compaction.

### Turnips and Rape

As fall-seeded Brassicas, turnips and rape are beneficial because they suppress weeds in the following crop. They also decompose quickly after being turned under. Turnip and rape grow quickly and are good at reducing surface compaction while providing winter cover and fall weed suppression. They can also scavenge soil nitrogen that has gone below the crop root zone.

### Hairy Vetch

Hairy vetch fixes large amounts of nitrogen (N) that help meet N needs of the following crop, protects soil from erosion, helps improve soil tilth, and provides weed control during its vigorous growth in the spring.

### Safflower

Safflower is a warm season broadleaf, that can be planted very early in the spring and will tolerate sub-freezing temperatures in its rosette stage. It is an annual with an upright growth habit and good salinity tolerance. It is very deep rooted and effective at mining’ mobile nutrients deep in the soil profile.

### Winter Triticale

Winter Triticale is a cross between winter rye and winter wheat known for its nutritional value as a forage crop. Offers good yields and great quality for spring feeding.

### Winter Barley

Winter Barley performs better on poorer soils than many other cereal grains and early maturity. It’s forage quality make it a top choice for dairy farmers following corn silage.

# ECS Product Descriptions

## Summer Soil Mix

Plant when soil temps hit mid 60’s for soil health improvement. This blend creates hi Bio-Mass with both below ground and above ground diversity.

Blend may include the following species:

- Cowpeas
- Soybeans
- Sun Hemp
- BMR Sorghum Sudan
- Pearl Millet
- Radish/Turnips
- Rapeseed/Collards
- Sunflower
- Buckwheat

## Summer Grazing Mix

Plant when soil temps hit mid 60’s for excellent summer grazing as well as soil health improvement. This blend provides producers an excellent opportunity for late fall grazing prior to winter pasture. The residue in the spring provides excellent seed bed for the no till or strip till producers for spring plantings of row crops.

Blends may include the following species:

- Cowpeas
- Soybeans
- Clover
- Sun Hemp
- BMR Sorghum Sudan
- Pearl Millet
- Radish/Turnips
- Collards
- Annual Ryegrass
- Oats

## Summer Nitrogen Mix

Plant when soil temps hit mid 60’s for excellent nitrogen production as well as soil health. This blend of multiple species of legumes is capable of producing Nitrogen quickly. The residue is ideal for the no-till producer in the spring to plant in.

Blends may include the following species:

- Cowpeas
- Soybeans
- Sun Hemp
- Winter peas
- BMR Sorghum Sudan
- Pearl Millet
- Radish/Turnips
- Rapeseed/Collards
- Buckwheat/Vetch

All Eastern Colorado Seeds products have been field tested and contain only the highest-quality varieties available. They are blended for optimum performance in a wide range of uses. While these are our standard mixtures they can be slightly modified for your particular needs. As with all custom orders a minimum of 2,000 pounds is needed in order to create an order.

## Spring Fallow Mix

Plant early spring in fallow ground going to wheat in the fall. This blend creates bio diversity, with both shallow and deep rooted species and legumes for N fixation. Creates a dense thatch that prevents wind and water erosion, cools soil temps and reduces moisture evaporation from soil surfaces.

Blend may include the following species:

- Spring forage peas
- Lentils or common vetch
- Oats
- Rapeseed
- Flax
- Safflower

## Spring Grazing Mix

Plant early spring for late spring supplemental grazing to be planted to winter wheat in the fall. This blend is ideal from producers looking to graze quickly before summer pastures are ready and still get a benefit of bio diversity, Nitrogen fixation and erosion controls that cover crops offer.

Blends may include the following species:

- Spring forage peas
- Lentils or common vetch
- Forage Oats/Barley
- Rapeseed
- Forage Collards

## Spring Nitrogen Mix

Plant early spring for Nitrogen fixation ahead of late spring planted crop or fall planted wheat. Will not have as much long lasting residue as the Fallow Mix but provides multiple species of legumes to produce Organic Nitrogen quickly.

Blends may include the following species:

- Spring forage peas
- Lentils or common vetch
- Persian or Berseem Clover
- Oats
- Rapeseed

