



COVER CROP TERMINATION CONSIDERATIONS

This spring has presented many challenges for growers. Cool, wet conditions are keeping growers out of fields – fields that must be addressed if cover crops are still growing. Spring residue leads to carbon:nitrogen (C:N) considerations, and cover crop termination should be near the front of producers’ minds.

The predominant species still standing in fields across the Corn Belt is winter rye. Although rye is already shedding pollen or progressing to dough stage in many areas, there are options and considerations for control:

- **Use rollers, stalk choppers and crimpers at milk or soft dough stage** (~20-30” tall) to flatten stems and potentially eliminate a burndown pass.
- **If mowing a stand, wait until the stand has begun flowering** (rye usually flowers ~14 hours of sunlight, as long as temperatures remain above 40 F). Sickle mowers typically work better than flail mowers. Mowing or grazing can postpone and prolong flowering if that fits into the goal and cropping cycle.
- **Ultimately, spring takeout often includes a herbicide application.** Understand the size and biomass of any leftover crop, and always follow the label! View the [chart](#) on the following page or find additional management information can be found in our [Soil First® management guide](#).



© Soil First® 2019 7-027_SF_05292019

About The Dirt

The Dirt is a periodic email series with timely cover crop tips from the agronomic experts at Soil First and La Crosse Seed. If you have a question you’d like us to answer, contact us: info@laxseed.com or 800.356.7333



COVER CROP TERMINATION OPTIONS

		Winter kill	Rolling / Crimping	Mowing	Tillage	Herbicide	Cover Crop Growth Stage	Herbicides for Termination
Brassicas	Radish / Turnips							Glyphosate / Paraquat
	Canola / Rapeseed	*	No	No	Yes	Yes		
	Mustard							
Legumes	Crimson Clover	*	No	No	*	Yes		Glyphosate; 2,4-D + Dicamba
	Winter Pea	*	No	Yes	*	Yes		Glyphosate + 2,4-D; Paraquat + 2,4-D
	Hairy Vetch	No	Yes (Full Bloom)	No		Yes	Yes (Pre or Mid- Bloom)	Glyphosate + 2,4-D or Dicamba; Paraquat + 2,4-D
Annual Ryegrass	*	No	No	Yes		< 6 - 8"	Refer to Management Guide	
Grasses	Winter Barley	No	Yes, at milk or dough stage	Yes		Yes, but 2 passes may be needed	Yes	Prior to Boot Stage (<18")
	Winter Triticale							
	Winter Wheat							
	Cereal Rye							

*Varies based upon region and climate

Taken from University of Wisconsin & Penn State University

For growers with wet acres where covers are still growing, we encourage you to take action as soon as possible. Equipment availability may be limited, so communicate with other local growers and NRCS offices to locate available machinery.

About The Dirt

The Dirt is a periodic email series with timely cover crop tips from the agronomic experts at Soil First and La Crosse Seed. If you have a question you'd like us to answer, contact us: info@laxseed.com or 800.356.7333

