



Winter Rye

- Winter rye aka: Annual rye, rye grain, etc
- Do not confuse with *ryegrass*, which is very different
- Can be sown September - Thanksgiving
- Overwinters very well. Grows anytime it is over 40 degrees
- Scavenges nitrogen, suppresses weeds, adds carbon and organic matter to soil, improves soil quality

Establishment

- Rye can be broadcast anytime after September 1st
- Wait to sow until there is rain in the forecast of greater than ¼". Sow immediately before rain.
- Rye can be sown over living crops



Spring Management

- Start to mow rye once it gets about a foot tall
- Mow every 2 weeks or so to keep it below one foot.
- This will help to suppress winter weeds and make the rye easier to terminate



Termination

- If planting in April
 - Begin tarping this area in February or March
 - Area should be ready to plant in 4 weeks or so
- Planting in May (or later)
 - Mow first, then:
 - Tarp for 2 - 4 weeks
 - Spread fertilizer and incorporate
 - Till or plant into the residue
- Mow or terminate by June 1st before it goes to seed.

