**Alfalfa**

**Plant Characteristics**: Upright perennial that grows 15-38 inches tall and has deep tap root.

**Emergence time**: 7 days

**Min. germination soil temp**: 34oF

**Annual or Perennial:** Perennial

**Salinity Tolerant:** pH 6.6 – 7.6

**Tolerances:** drought tolerant

**Cool or Warm season:** Cool (mid-April to early October planting)

The following goals for this species are ranked 0-4, 0=Poor, 1=Fair, 2=Good, 3=Very Good, 4=Excellent.

**Nitrogen Source**: 4

**Nitrogen Scavenger**: 1

**Soil Builder**: 4

**Erosion Fighter**: 3

**Lasting Residue**: 1

**Weed Fighter**: 2

**Grazing**: 4

**Forage Harvest Value**: 4

**Recommended Seeding Dates**: April - October

**Planting Depth**: ¼ - ½ inches

**Min. Seeding Rate (incorporated)**: 12 lbs/ac PLS

**Min. Seeding Rate (non-incorporated)**: 16 lbs/ac PLS

**Termination Options**: Til and then apply herbicide

**Other notes**: Rapid growth, Seed costs are high

**Resources**:

*Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide*-Midwest Cover Crop Council

*Managing Cover Crops Profitably*-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Green Cover Seed-Soil Health



