

Planning for Your Cover Crop

Interested in planting a cover crop this summer or fall? Our team of agronomists is here to help! There are multiple soil health benefits to planting a cover crop including reduced soil erosion, improved soil structure and organic matter, weed suppression, ability to fix or scavenge nitrogen, support of pollinators and beneficial insects, breakage of disease or pest cycles, enhanced water infiltration, and potential livestock forage.

The first step towards success and utilization of some of these soil health benefits on your operation is having a plan. That plan should include details on what you will grow and when. It is also important to consider establishment, rotation, and soil type. Additionally, are you looking for a cover crop to over winter? Or winterkill? Do you need extra feed/forage?

Oats	Fall Rye
- A winter-killing cover that leaves a clean seedbed in spring - Quick fall erosion control after wheat or early corn silage - Emergency feed - A good companion for species like radish or peas	- An overwintering cover that provides early spring biomass - Better weed suppression, especially before no-till corn or soybeans - Can scavenge nitrogen and prevent nutrient leaching - Compaction reduction and improved tilth with deep roots
Red Clover	Crimson Clover
- Interseeded into winter wheat, frost-seeded, or early spring seeding - Excellent nitrogen fixation, deep taproot, improves organic matter, tolerates the cold.	- Fall-planted cover that winter-kills or occasionally overwinters in southern Ontario - Fast fall growth, fixes nitrogen quickly in a short window, attractive to pollinators, great companion crop.

Are you considering using a cover crop? It's never to late or early to start planning! Talk to your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor.

Focus on Forages this Month

As first cut hay wraps up, it's a great time to start thinking about fertilizing your hay crop so that it rebounds well and sets up for a plentiful second cut provided we get some precipitation along the way.

Forages are huge removers of nutrients which goes somewhat unnoticed. Crop removal figures on per ton basis of alfalfa are as follows; N- 56 lbs, P-15 lbs, K – 60 lbs, Mg - 5 lbs, Ca- 28 lbs, and S- 5 lbs. Add these numbers up for a 3-5 tonne crop and you get some significant crop removal particularly when taking multiple cuts per year. Unlike nitrogen, forage crops cannot generate P or K out of thin air. Without replacing these nutrients with manure or commercial fertilizer, your soil tests will drop quickly which will result in lower yielding stands and a reduction in the overall lifespan of the stand. Most of the phone calls and inquiries our agronomy staff gets with regards to troubleshooting forage stands points back to lack of basic fertility and/or soil pH issues. When building fertility programs for forages, think about other nutrients like sulfur, magnesium, and boron. Alfalfa shows positive yield responses to all 3 of these nutrients and without adequate amounts of these secondary and micronutrients, your crop may suffer. Products like Aspire and K-Mag in a hay fertilizer blend can be critical for success. K-Mag not only offers magnesium and sulfur but is also a more soluble and readily available form of potassium which is something to consider when going through dry conditions this time of year. Even SOP (potassium sulfate), can offer great value as a source of soluble potassium.

For those growers on lighter soils and battling issues with balancing pH values in soil, KaLime is also a great options for liming and fertilizing in one pass, providing potassium, calcium, boron and a pH "bump" As always, there are lots of options in terms of product choices so utilize your crop advisor to have these discussions and build a program that best suits your needs and budget.



Soybean & Corn Fungicide Considerations

Soybean flowering marks a critical stage in crop development — and it also signals the beginning of potential White Mould infections. This disease can significantly reduce soybean yields if it is not properly managed. According to the disease triangle model, both the pathogen (White Mould) and the host (soybeans) are already present; if environmental conditions become favourable — cool, humid, and dense canopies — the risk of infection increases.

Applying fungicides between the R1 and R5 growth stages is a key part of an effective White Mould management plan. Optimal timing is at R2, which will be approximately 10-14 days after the first flower is seen. Several products have proven effective, including: Stratego Pro, Delaro Complete, Viatude, Cotegra, Allegro

Many of these products contain Prothioconazole as a common active ingredient, offering effective and reliable disease suppression. When the risk of White Mould is high—particularly in fields with dense canopies or a history of the disease—a two-pass fungicide program may be necessary to maintain protection throughout the extended flowering period. If using a two-pass approach, be sure to rotate products with different modes of action to support resistance management.

Now is also a good time to start preparing for corn fungicide applications. Corn is susceptible to several diseases, including Northern Corn Leaf Blight, Tar Spot, and DON (Deoxynivalenol). Effective fungicide applications can help protect yield and grain quality.

Holmes Agro's Recommended Corn Fungicides:

Miravis Neo – Offers excellent control of foliar diseases like Tar Spot, along with suppression of Fusarium and Gibberella ear rots. Miravis Neo would be the product of choice when targeting leaf diseases.

Veltyma DLX – Controls foliar diseases and suppresses Fusarium and Gibberella ear rots. Veltyma DLX is the product of choice for corn silage & grain corn fed to chickens or hogs.

For optimal results, these fungicides should be applied during the tassel to silking stage.

Factors to Consider When Planning Fungicide Applications:

- Weather Conditions – Are current or forecasted conditions favorable for disease development?
- Field History – Has there been high disease pressure in the past?
- Soybean Canopy & Row Width – Dense canopies and narrow rows can trap moisture and reduce airflow, increasing White Mould risk.
- Crop Rotation – Continuous soybean or corn rotations carry higher disease risk compared to more diverse rotations like corn-soy-wheat.
- Genetics – What level of disease resistance or tolerance is built into the soybean or corn hybrid you're planting?

Need Help Deciding on a Fungicide Plan? Talk to your local Holmes Agro agronomist today to customize your in-field strategy.

2025 Product Return Deadlines

We accept returns for any **unopened, undamaged**, skids, bulk bags or unopened chemical jugs. We do ask the following:

1. If we are picking up returns at your site, we prefer it if you can be there to help load. If you cannot be, please leave returns out for us, and if required, we will ask for approval to use your equipment.
2. If you are bringing returns to any of our locations, please ensure all products are on a skid to help ease the unloading process. Please call ahead to let us know you are bringing back returns.
3. We are no longer accepting seed returns. Please call the office should you have questions. Please return all **unopened crop protection products** as soon as you are finished with the product or **by July 31**.



We Want to See Your Summer Pictures

It's never too early to send in pictures for next year's 2026 Holmes Agro calendar. We want to see your winter and spring scenes! Every year we are proud to be able to provide a calendar of grower pictures, all thanks to your great submissions. Send your calendar picture submissions to calendar@holmesagro.com.

***** Please email media@holmesagro.com to sign up for our e-newsletter *****

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