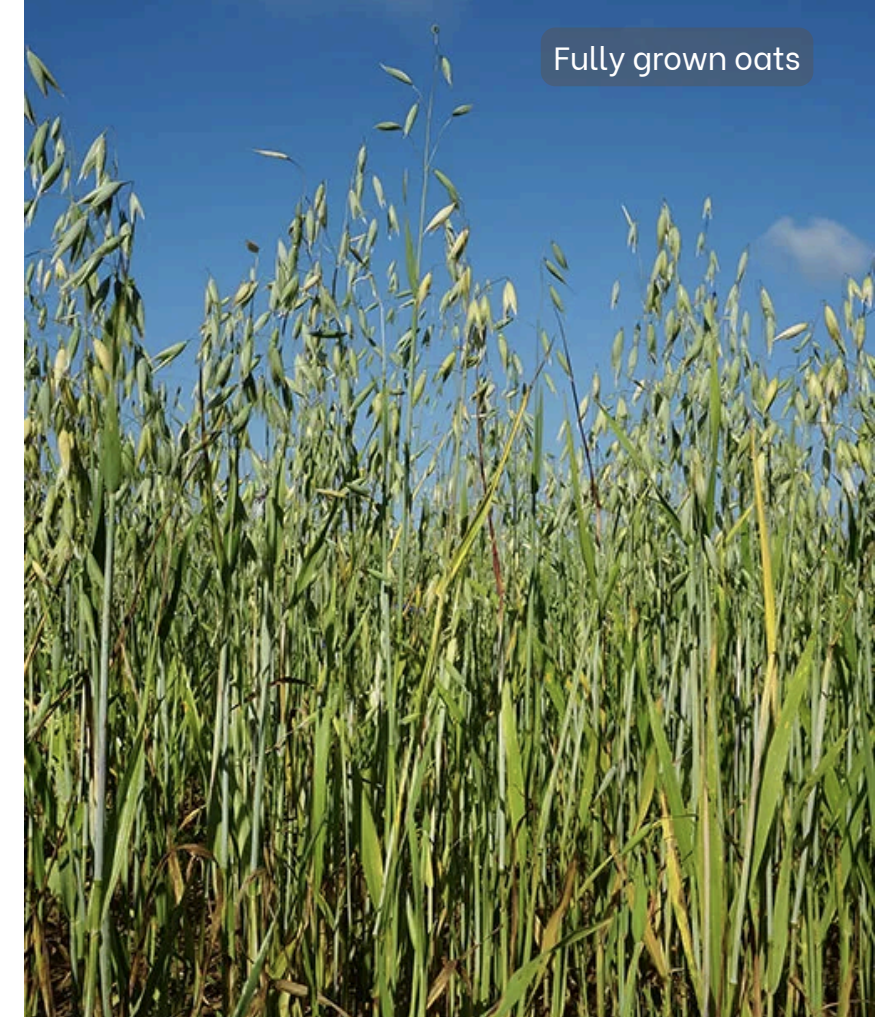


# COVER CROP: OATS



## Benefits:

Oats grow great mixed with legume cover crops such as clover, peas, and vetch!

Before oats are winterkilled, they can be knocked down and used as a mulch for overwintered crops such as garlic



Oats are quick to grow and excellent at suppressing weeds that grow fast in the spring!

Oats have a fibrous root system that helps support soil structure between plantings



Oats provide a great mulch for Spring crops or can add beneficial biomass to soil as the residue breaks down

## TIME LINE

### SEPT-NOV PLANTING

Oats grow best in cool conditions. Broadcast seed generously in the Fall. Cover to protect from wildlife.

### OCT - NOV ESTABLISHMENT

Oats are an annual grass that grows quickly, and will ideally put on growth before first frost.

### DEC - FEB WINTERKILL

Oats are a "winterkill" cover crop; they will likely die off after 3 straight days below 20°F or 1 day at 5°F!

### FEB-MARCH SPRING PLANTING

It is possible to seed oats in early Spring or for cover in advance of later Spring or early Summer plantings.

### MAY-JUNE TERMINATION

Any oats that remain in late Spring need to be pulled out or cut back before planting other crops.

### SUMMER GREEN MANURE

The plant residue will retain moisture & suppress weeds, acting as a mulch for summer crops.

