

AERIAL SEEDING COVER CROPS IN VERMONT

2014 No-Till & Cover Crop Symposium

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Champlain Valley
Crops, Soil & Pasture Team

EXTENSION
CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



AERIAL SEEDING COVER CROPS IN VERMONT

Can seeding cover crops earlier in Vermont provide enhanced environmental benefit and farmer adoption?

One more tool available to get cover crops established in a timely manner



AERIAL SEEDING COVER CROPS IN VERMONT

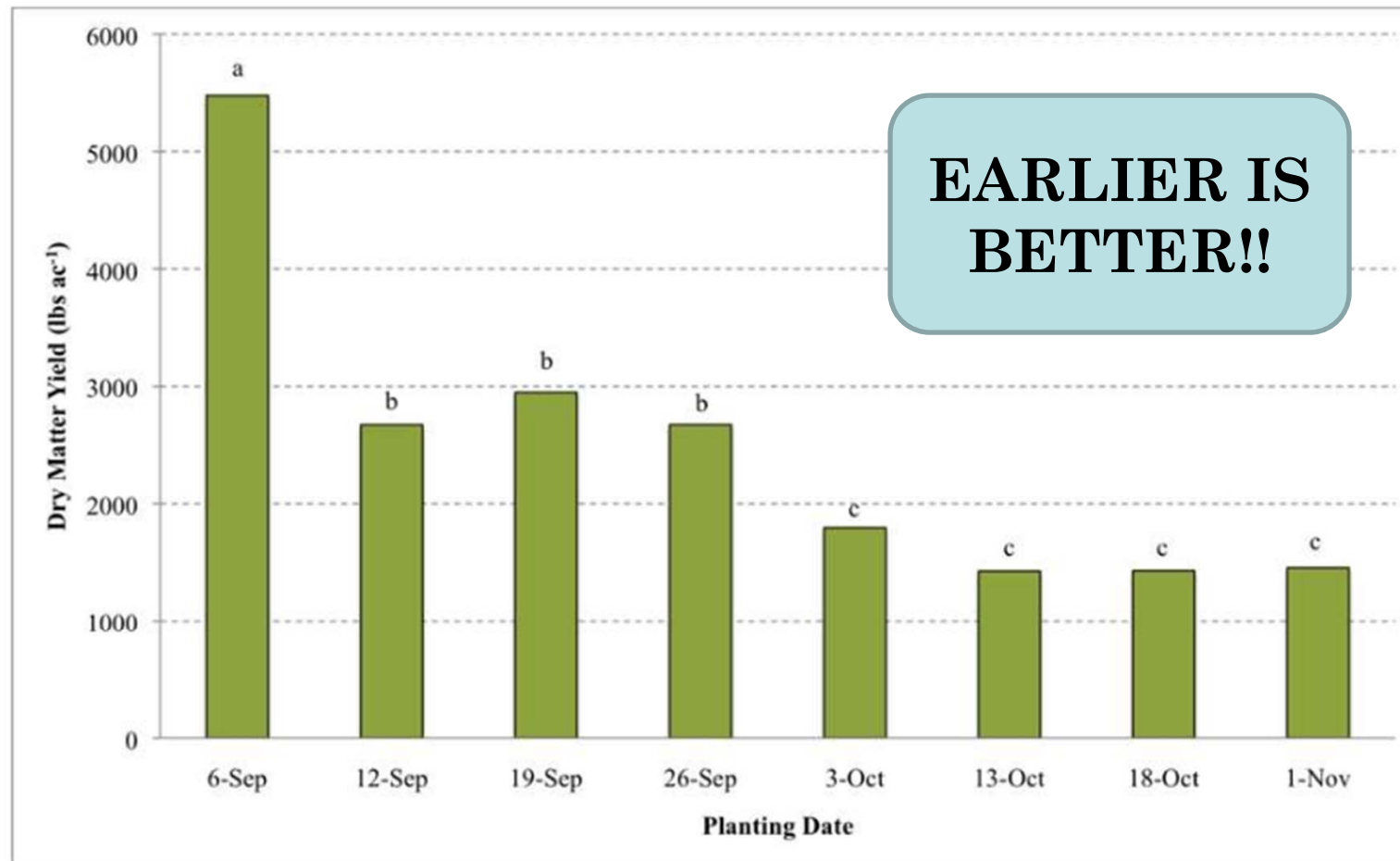


Figure 1. Effect of planting date on winter rye dry matter yield per acre. Values with the same letter did not perform significantly differently ($P < 0.10$).

AERIAL SEEDING COVER CROPS IN VERMONT

- **2012**— **2544 acres** in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille & Orleans Counties
- **2013**—**5600 acres** in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle counties *and in New York*
- **Funding Partners:** VAAFM, USDA-NRCS (EQIP), LCBP
- **Contractor:** Mansfield Heliflight (Milton, VT)



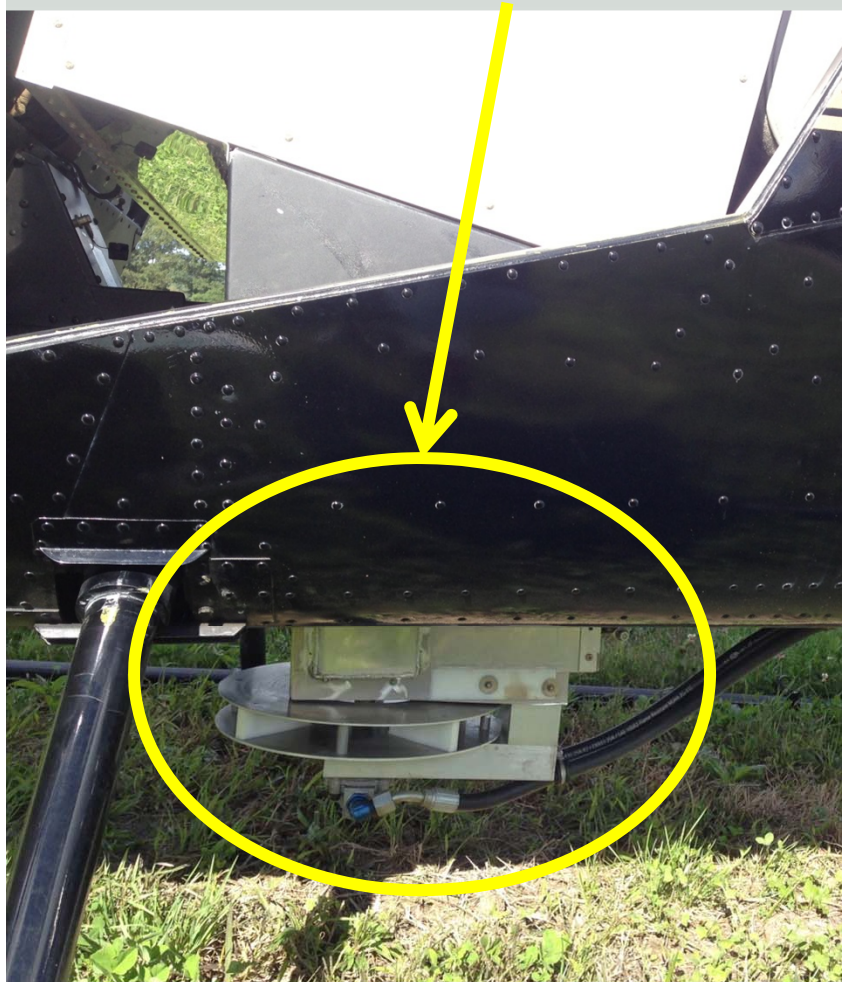







Seed Vacuum Inlet

**Hydraulic Broadcast
Spinner**



Do the seeds make it
onto the ground?





Germination in
two days



Seedlings under
canopy in 1-2 weeks



Winter Rye Stand in
Grain Corn Before
Harvest

A close-up photograph of a cornfield. The corn plants are tall, with yellowing and browning leaves, indicating they are ready for harvest. The ground is covered with green grass and some fallen corn leaves.



After Corn Silage Harvest
(November)

A photograph of a cornfield after silage harvest. The corn stalks are cut and lying on the ground, and the field is covered with green grass. In the background, there are hills and a clear sky.

November 2012
Essex, VT



November 2012
Bristol, VT



April 2013
Richmond, VT

**Winter Rye drilled after
corn harvest...Sept. 25th**

**Winter Rye flown into
corn...Sept. 9th**





Harvest Conditions are KEY!!



AERIAL SEEDING COVER CROPS IN VERMONT

- A great catalyst for cover cropping in the Champlain Valley.
- One more tool to get cover crops established in a timely fashion...especially in grain corn
- Snaplage???
- No-Till and other high residue situations (weeds, etc)?



SUMMARY

AERIAL SEEDING COVER CROPS IN VERMONT

- Can we start seeding earlier? YES
- Can we seed other crops/mixtures? YES
- Can we seed lower rates, quicker, cheaper???
- Can we seed into soybeans?
- What are the best situations to use this tool?
- LOGISTICS



FUTURE QUESTIONS

AERIAL SEEDING COVER CROPS IN VERMONT



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Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

