






Timing of Cover Crop Management in Almonds

| | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
|---|--|--|------|--|-----|--|--|--|------------------------|--|-----|-----|
|  <p>Planning</p> | Evaluate cover crop strategy and consider where to plant | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Talk to other growers and look into funding options | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Select and order seeds | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Choose seeding and termination equipment | | | | | | | | | | |
|  <p>Planting</p> | | | | Prep soil, as necessary, for planting | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Plant cover crop within two weeks of predicted rain ans/or irrigate, if possible, for establishment | | | | | | | | |
|  <p>Growth</p> | | | | Shake mummies and prune over cover crops or in alternate rows (you can grind prunings and mummies in non-cover crop rows, or before planting the cover crop) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Monitor for pests (gophers and insects) as they emerge in the spring | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Mow if facing frost risk: <2 inches will terminate the cover crop, depending on species | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | High mow (>6 inches) to manage winter weeds, allow slow-growing species more light, and to keep vegetation lower and younger | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | If cover crops flower, avoid spraying during the daytime when insects are active | | | | |
|  <p>Termination</p> | | | | | | | | Early season termination | Mid-season termination | Late-season termination | | |
|  <p>Post-Termination Until Harvest</p> | | | | | | | | | | Mow to break down residue and control weeds (may need to mow multiple times) | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Irrigate lightly, if possible, to aid in residue breakdown | | |

The timeline summarizes the major management operations for integrating cover crops into almond. For more information about each of the five management steps, including questions to asking during the planning step and additional cover cropping strategies, see the full Best Management Practices guide, available at almonds.com/covercrops