






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