It’s considered among the best practices for promoting soil health and water quality. Planting cover crops—whether they’re cool-weather grasses, legumes, or other crops—has become routine for a number of farmers in the Midwest and throughout the country.

Usually planted after harvesting other vegetable, grass, or row crops, cover crops help reduce soil erosion during cooler months and increase biodiversity within the soil. They can also keep weeds and other pests at bay.

But sometimes the cover crops themselves become problematic weeds, as has been encountered with a common ryegrass cover crop used in several Southeastern and Midwestern states.

*Lolium multiflorum*, also known as annual ryegrass or Italian ryegrass, can become an herbicide-resistant nuisance for farmers who grow cereal, vegetable, row, and grass seed crops, according to Take Action, an herbicide-resistance management project operated by the United Soybean Board.

Not to be confused with a perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), *Lolium multiflorum* is usually planted as a winter pasture and cover crop, with approximately 3 million