

Fall Row Cover Quick Guide

Row covers are one of the simplest and most effective tools for protecting fall crops from frost, pests, and harsh weather. This quick guide includes fabric comparisons, installation steps, and crop-specific tips so you can keep your garden productive well into the cooler months.

Fabric Types & Benefits

Type	Fabric Weight	Light Transmission	Frost Protection	Best Uses
Lightweight Floating Cover	0.5–0.9 oz/sq. yd	85–95%	2–4°F	Pest control, light frost
Medium-Weight Cover	1.0–1.5 oz/sq. yd	75–85%	4–6°F	Pest + moderate frost protection
Heavyweight Frost Blanket	1.5–3.0 oz/sq. yd	50–70%	6–10°F	Significant frost protection, overwintering

Installation Checklist

- ☐ Prepare the bed: weed, water, and amend soil before covering.
- ☐ Select fabric weight based on climate, crop, and desired frost protection.
- ☐ Choose direct lay for low crops or hoops for taller crops.
- ☐ Anchor edges securely with soil, sandbags, or landscape staples.
- ☐ Vent covers on warm days to prevent overheating.
- ☐ Adjust for growth and ensure plants have room under cover.
- ☐ Replace covers immediately after harvest if frost risk remains.

Crop-Specific Notes

- Spinach & Lettuce: Lightweight for pests; medium-weight during frost.
- Kale & Chard: Medium-weight extends growth; heavy blanket in deep cold.
- Carrots & Beets: Cover to retain soil warmth and protect tops from frost.



- Broccoli & Cauliflower: Medium-weight for pests and frost protection.
- Peppers (warm zones): Heavy frost blanket can extend harvest several weeks.

Reflection

Row covers offer a gentle but powerful protection—much like God’s care in our lives. They shield us from harm while letting in the light we need to grow.

Journal Prompt

Where do I need to create a “cover” in my own life—boundaries, rhythms, or habits—that allow me to grow steadily even in challenging seasons?

