

SC Cover Crop Recommendations

(Rates are drilled. For Broadcasting* consider increasing rates by 75%)

Fall/Winter Suggested Mixes (lbs/ac.) :

Mix 1) 10lbs. Cereal Rye
10lbs. Oats
10lbs. Wheat
2lbs. Diakon Radish
2lbs. Purple Top Turnip



Mix 2) 12lbs. Rye
13lbs. Oats
5lbs. Vetch
2lbs. Turnip
15lbs. Austrian Peas
2lbs. Radish



<u>Mix 4</u>	<u>Mix 5</u>
8lbs. Rye	20lbs. Rye
8lbs. Oats	5lbs. Oats
6lbs. C. Clover	4 lbs. C. Clover
6lbs. Vetch	4lbs. Vetch
1lb. Rape	1lb. Rape
1lb. Radish	1lb. Radish

Mix 3)

20lbs. Cereal Rye
4lbs. Crimson Clover
6lbs. White Cahaba Vetch
2lbs. Diakon Radish

Legumes Mix:

5lbs. Crimson Clover
5lbs. Vetch
25lbs. Austrian Peas



Spring/Summer (lbs./ac):

Mix 1) 10lbs. Sorghum Sudangrass
2lbs. Daikon Radish
15lbs. Cowpeas

Mix 2) 8lbs. Pearl Millet
3lbs. Peredovik sunflower
35lbs. Cowpeas

Legume Mix: 20lbs. Cowpeas

20lbs. Forage Soybeans

Legume (single species): Sunnhemp 15lbs./ac



*Large seeds such as beans and peas are not well suited for broadcasting because they need to be planted .5-1" deep.

****Mixes are suggestions ONLY.** Considerations should be made for weather, time of year, crop to be planted into cover, equipment available, and purpose of the cover crop.**

Sources: - Midwest Cover Crop Field Guide, 1/2012
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition
- Farmer experience
<http://www.petcherseeds.com/about-sunn-hemp/production-guide>

Considerations:

- Utilizing mixtures with deep rooted species such as brassicas, tillage radish, and cereal rye can assist with sub-surface compaction. Use a penetrometer to monitor compaction after the soil profile is saturated and only deep till as needed.
- A cover crop mix heavier in legumes will assist with the decomposition of residues high in carbon such as wheat and corn stubble.
- To maximize the Nitrogen (N) contribution for Legumes, they should be terminated once they begin to flower.
- Carbon is necessary to build Soil Organic Matter. This is achieved only through termination of cover that is approaching the reproductive stage (ie: dough stage in rye). Mixing legumes with grasses increases diversity and eliminates N tie up.
- Animal manures such as poultry litter will help boost biological activity, as well as boost cover growth on sandy soils and fields low in OM.
- A soil organic matter (OM) test is one method to assess the effect of implementing a soil health system. New biological testing methods such as the Haney Test and the Solvita test should be considered to assist with adjusting the nutrient budget and assessing the nutrient contributions from improved soil biology. <http://woodsend.org/soil-health-test/>
- Preparations should be made prior to planting season to get the cover crop material on the ground prior to crop emergence. Cover crop residue on the soil surface accelerates the decomposition of the residue, prevents cash crops from becoming “leggy” because they are competing for sunlight, and provides the maximum weed suppression.
- Timing of planting is important. Increase seeding rates as the season progresses.



Terminating and Rolling cover



Post planting