SC Cover Crop Recommendations

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

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

**Mix 1**
- 10# Cereal Rye
- 10# Oats
- 10# Wheat
- 2# Diakon Radish
- 2# Purple Top Turnip

**Mix 2**
- 12# Rye
- 13# Oats
- 5# Vetch
- 2# Turnip
- 15# Austrian Wint Peas
- 2# Radish

**Mix 3**
- 20# Rye
- 4# Crimson Clover
- 6# White Cahaba Vetch
- 2# Diakon Radish

Legumes Mix:
- 10# Crimson Clover
- 5# Vetch
- 25-30# Austrian Peas

Spring/Summer (#/ac):

**Mix 1**
- 10# Sorghum Sudangrass
- 15# Buckwheat
- 35# Cowpeas

Legume Mix: 35# Cowpeas
- 35# Forage Soybeans

Legume (single species): Sunnhemp 15#/ac

**Mix 2**
- 8# Pearl Millet
- 15# Buckwheat
- 35# Cowpeas

Legume (single species): Sunnhemp 15#/ac

**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.**

Rev. Sept 2014
Considerations:

- Utilizing mixtures with deep rooted species such as brassicas, tillage radish, and rye can assist with sub surface compaction. Consider the use of a penetrometer to monitor compaction.
- 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: milk stage in rye).
- Initially, additional N may need to be added to fields that are transitioning to a no-till system because of higher carbon residues which can lead to immobilization of N. Once the soil health is restored, N inputs can be monitored through pre-sidedress nitrogen testing and tissue samples.
- Soil OM test is one method to assess the effect of implementing a soil health system. Considerations should be made to conduct other assessments such as the Solvita® test which measures soil CO₂ release and predicts N contributions from organic matter during the growing season. For lab locations visit: http://solvita.com/soil/map
- Preparations should be made prior to planting season to get the cover crop material on the ground prior to crop emergence. The cover crop material on the ground accelerates the decomposition of the residue, prevents cash crops from becoming “leggy” because they are competing for sunlight, and provides the maximum weed suppression.

Sources: Midwest Cover Crop Field Guide, 1/2012
Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition
Farmer experience

Terminating and Rolling cover

Post planting

Rev. Sept 2014