



## **SC Cover Crop Recommendations**

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

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

Mix 3)

4lbs. Crimson Clover

2lbs. Diakon Radish

6lbs. White Cahaba Vetch

20lbs. Cereal Rye

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



Mix 4 Mix 5

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



**Legumes Mix:** 

5lbs. Crimson Clover

5lbs. Vetch

25lbs. Austrian Peas



## Spring/Summer (lbs./ac):

Mix 1) 10lbs. Sorghum Sudangrass

2lbs. Daikon Radish

15lbs. Cowpeas

Legume Mix: 20lbs. Cowpeas

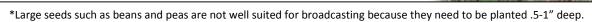
20lbs. Forage Soybeans

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

Mix 2) 8lbs. Pearl Millet

3lbs. Peredovik sunflower

35lbs. Cowpeas



\*\*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**