USDA NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

December 2005

Legume Cover Crop

Conservation Activity Job Sheet ***(NJNutrient03)***

Participant _____ Crop Year_____

Plant a legume cover crop prior to November 15 in order to achieve adequate cover before winter, build soil organic matter, and provide a source of nitrogen for the subsequent crop.

Legume cover crops provide seasonal cover for fields where crop residues are inadequate, where residues degrade easily, or where additional benefits are desired. These include:

- Increased soil organic matter
- Management of excess nutrients in the soil
- Promotion of biological nitrogen fixation
- Increased biodiversity
- Weed suppression
- Soil moisture management

Use this (or similar) table to document cover crops used.

Cover crops were established after the following crops.

Fields	After the Following Crop	Fields	After the Following Crop

Seeding and Management:

Fields	Species	Rate / Acre	Seeding Time	Method of Seeding D = Drill B = Broadcast A = Aerial	Date or Stage to Till or Kill Cover Crop	Method to Till of Kill Cover Crop

When seeding legumes, ensure the proper inoculate is used just prior to planting. Control weeds in the cover crop by mowing or herbicide application. Control growth of the cover crop to reduce competition from volunteer plants and shading. Do not use treated seed when broadcasting or aerial seeding in a crop to be harvested. Establish the cover/green manure crop within the stated time period and maintain until the stated time/growth stage.

Documentation Required: Seed tags or other evidence that the legume cover crop was planted prior to November 15.

I certify that I planted a legume cover on the fields indicated prior to November 15.

_____ _____

Signature Date