

Cover Crops

Questions to Consider

June 2012

Once you have selected the cover crop, or mix, prior to seed purchase, here are some questions that you can ask to ensure a smoother experience with cover crops.

- Will the selected cover crop species act as a host in pest cycles in adjacent crops, as well as for the next crop in the rotation?
- How will I seed the cover crop?
- What were the previous crop herbicides and will they affect the cover crop(s) I want to plant?
- What will soil temperature and moisture conditions be like?
- What weather extremes and field traffic must it tolerate?
- Will it winterkill in my area?
- Should it winterkill, to meet my goals?
- What kind of regrowth can I expect?

Thinking through the answer to these questions can help avoid some of the pitfalls that can accompany first time cover crop producers.



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