

Iowa Addendum: Soil Quality Enhancement Activity – SQL02 – Continuous Cover crops.

Cover crops must be grown on **all planned acres** following annually planted crops and during any fallow periods (i.e. prevented planted) in the crop rotation. In addition, the cover crops grown must meet at least **two** of the following criteria:

1. High bio-mass cover crops for erosion control and increased soil organic matter improvement.
Acceptable cover crops with a growth potential to produce a minimum of 3000 lbs/ac (dry wt.) include: Barley, Canola, Corn, Pearl Millet, Oats, Cereal Rye, Annual Ryegrass, Sorghum, Sudangrass or Sudan/Sorghum Hybrids, Triticale, Wheat.
2. Legume cover crops for biological nitrogen fixation. Cover crop must have a minimum of 45 days of active growth before termination.
Acceptable cover crops include: Alfalfa, Chickpea, Cowpea, Field pea/lentils, Hairy Vetch, White Clover, Red Clover, Soybean, Sweet Clover
3. Non-leguminous cover crops to capture and recycle residual nitrogen.
Acceptable cover crops include: Buckwheat, Barley, Canola, Corn, Cereal Rye, Annual Ryegrass, Sorghum, Sudangrass or Sudan/Sorghum Hybrids, Triticale, Wheat.
This enhancement does not apply to the same acres on which a leguminous cover crop is applied.
4. Cover crops for weed suppression.
Acceptable cover crops include: Barley, Buckwheat, Cowpea, Field pea/lentils, Hairy vetch, Mustard, Radish, Red Clover, Cereal Rye, Annual Ryegrass, Sorghum, Sudangrass or Sudan/Sorghum Hybrids, Triticale, Wheat.
5. Biodiversity improvement with cover crops. Cover crops selected must be different crop type (i.e. warm season grass, cool season grass, warm season broadleaf, cool season broadleaf) or, if a cover crop mix is used include a different crop type than the previous crop.

1/ Acceptable cover crops are established early enough in the growing season to provide adequate fall and winter cover. Cover crops will be seeded in the months shown in Table 1 of the Cover Crop practice standard (340) and will be seeded according to the criteria and rates listed in the standard.

2/ For additional cover crop species see *Managing Cover Crops Profitably* third edition.
<http://www.mccc.msu.edu/documents/ManagingCCProfitably.pdf>



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