



Do You Have Problems With:

- Crusting soils
- Crop moisture stress
- Soil Erosion
- Cloddy soils
- Fertilizer costs
- Weeds

Cover crops can help.

Cover crops include planting and growing grasses, legumes, or combinations of grasses and legumes as cover between production crops.



Benefits of Cover Crops:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water.
- Increase soil organic matter content.
- Improve soil tilth / workability.
- Store nutrients in the root zone.
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation.
- Weed suppression.
- Take up excess soil moisture while growing.
- Save soil moisture when used as a mulch.
- Provide supplemental forage.
- Improve crop yields.



Cost to establish the cover crop:

- Seed cost can vary widely by type used such as oats or legumes.
- Seedbed preparation can range from no cost, if no preparation is needed, to the cost of disking or similar tillage.
- Seeding can be as inexpensive as broadcast seeding or using a no till drill.

Cover Crops



Cover crops can be seeded directly into crop residue or seeded into a prepared seedbed.



Oil Seed Radish provides cover & weed control.



Crimson clover is an excellent legume cover crop for the South providing cover and nitrogen for the next crop.



Austrian Winter Pea is a legume and provides both cover and nitrogen for the next crop.



An oats cover crop provides wind erosion protection until crop is established.



A ryegrass cover crop can be broadcast seeded into corn stubble after the corn harvest.

Cover Crops

Cover crop establishment, types, uses, and management (Continued):



Rye cover rolled down to be killed. No disking or herbicides needed.



The next crop (soybeans) drilled directly into the rolled rye cover crop. The rye cover dies after rolling.



A specially designed roller crimps the rye stem and lays it flat. The next crop is no-tilled into the cover. The mulch provides erosion control, weed control, soil moisture for the next crop, and enhanced soil quality.



Soybeans that were planted directly into the rolled rye cover have outstanding weed control with little or no herbicides used.



Cover crops can also be tilled into the soil. This is used when tillage is needed prior to planting.



The proper use of cover crops requires planning to select the right cover crop for the desired purpose.

Technical Help Is Available

Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can assist you planning and implementing a cover crop system for your farm. They can also help you develop a Conservation Plan to solve other problems you have identified on your farm.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply call your local office at the number listed below to set up an appointment and we will come to your farm.

You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance, through a state or federal program. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.



Helping People Help the Land

NRCS FIELD OFFICES:

Adams: 717-334-2317 ext 3	Dauphin: 717-921-2380 ext 3	Monroe: 610-625-8392 ext 3
Allegheny: 717-482-4800 ext 3	Delaware: 610-696-0398 ext 3	Montgomery: 610-372-4655 ext 3
Armstrong: 724-545-1022 ext 3	Elk: 814-375-2125 ext 3	Northhampton: 610-625-8392 ext 3
Beaver: 724-482-4800 ext 3	Erie: 814-796-6760 ext 3	Northumberland: 570-286-7114 ext 3
Bedford: 814-623-7900 ext 3	Fayette: 724-437-7971 ext 3	Perry: 717-582-4144 ext 3
Berks: 610-372-4655 ext 3	Forest: 814-226-8160 ext 3	Pike: 570-282-8732 ext 3
Blair: 814-695-6291 ext 3	Franklin: 717-264-8074 ext 3	Potter: 814-274-8166 ext 3
Bradford: 570-265-6969 ext 3	Fulton: 717-485-3812 ext 3	Schuykill: 570-622-1312 ext 3
Bucks: 215-453-9527 ext 3	Greene: 724-627-5821	Snyder: 570-837-0007 ext 3
Butler: 724-482-4800 ext 3	Huntingdon: 814-627-1626 ext 3	Somerset: 814-445-6876 ext 3
Cambria: 814-472-5502 ext 3	Indiana: 727-463-8547 ext 3	Sullivan: 570-836-2490 ext 3
Cameron: 814-375-2125 ext 3	Jefferson: 814-375-2125 ext 3	Susquehanna: 570-278-1011 ext 3
Carbon: 610-625-8392 ext 3	Juniata: 717-436-8953 ext 3	Tioga: 570-724-1726 ext 3
Centre: 570-726-3196 ext 3	Lackawanna: 570-282-8732 ext 3	Union: 570-523-3280
Chester: 610-696-0398 ext 3	Lancaster: 717-299-5361 ext 3	Warren: 814-563-3125
Clarion: 814-226-8160 ext 3	Lawrence: 724-652-5811	Washington: 724-222-3060 ext 3
Clearfield: 814-375-2125 ext 3	Lebanon: 717-272-3908 ext 3	Wayne: 570-282-8732 ext 3
Clinton: 570-726-3196 ext 3	Lehigh: 610-625-8392 ext 3	Westmoreland: 724-834-3970 ext 3
Columbia: 570-784-1062 ext 3	Luzerne: 570-799-0645 ext 3	Wyoming: 570-836-2490 ext 3
Crawford: 814-724-1852 ext 3	Lycoming: 570-433-3902 ext 3	Venago: 814-437-2473 ext 3
Cumberland: 717-249-1037 ext 3	McKean: 814-274-8166 ext 3	York: 717-755-2966 ext 3
	Mercer: 724-662-3740 ext 3	
	Mifflin: 717-248-9541 ext 3	