

## Soil Quality Enhancement Activity –SQL04- Use of Cover Crop Mixes



### Enhancement Description

This enhancement is for the use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops.

### Land Use Applicability

Cropland, which includes Orchards and Vineyards

### Benefits

The use of a cover crop mixture that contains two (2) or more plants is often more effective than a planting of single species cover crop. Cover crop mixtures adapt to

variation in soils, increase biomass production, provide broader spectrum of weed control, have better winter survival and ground cover and attract a range of beneficial insects. Nutrients can be trapped or produced depending on existing soil conditions and plants used. Mixes can be a grass/legume, multiple cultivars of a single species, or a mix containing plants with different growth patterns, e.g. fast and slow, tall and short.

### Criteria for Use of Cover Crop Mixes

- Cover crop mixes must contain a minimum of two (2) different plant species or cultivars of a single species with different maturity dates.
- Cover crop species will be selected from state specific lists in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.
- Crops planted following cover crop must be no-tilled.
- Nutrient applications for crops following cover crop should consider nitrogen fixation from leguminous cover crops.

### Documentation Requirements for Use of Cover Crop Mixes

1. Written documentation for each year of this enhancement describing the following items:
  - Cover crop species used and dated planted
  - Date and amount of fertilizer applied
  - Method to kill cover crop and date completed
  - Crop planted after cover crop and method used
2. A map showing fields where the enhancement is applied
3. Photographs of a representative number of fields showing cover crop mix



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## NH State Supplement SOL04 – Use of Cover Crop Mixes

### Approved Cover Crops

Species	Rate <sup>a,b</sup> lbs/acre	Latest Seeding Date*	
		North	South
Winter Rye	120	Sep 15	Oct 1
Triticale	120	Sep 15	Oct 1
Spring /Winter Wheat	120	May 31/Sep 15	May 31/Oct 1
Spring/Winter Barley	120	May 31/Sep 1	May 31/Sep 15
Spring/Winter Oats	120	May 31/Sep 1	May 31/Sep 15
Annual Ryegrass	20-30	Sep 1	Sep 15
Sorghum Sudangrass	40-50	Jun 15	Jun 15
Japanese Millet	30-35	Jun 15	Jun 15
Pearl Millet	30-35	Jun 15	Jun 15
Red Clover	10-15	May 31/Aug 25	May 31/Sep 1
White Clover	8-12	May 31/Aug 25	May 31/Sep 1
Hairy Vetch	30-35	Aug 15	Sep 1
Field Pea	120-140	May 15	Apr 30
Crimson Clover	30	Jun 1	Jun 1
Subterranean Clover	30	Jun 1	Jun 1
Lupine	100	Jun 1	Jun 1
Soybean	100-120	Jun 30	Jun 30
Cowpea	120-140	Jun 30	Jun 30
Forage Radish	10-20	Aug 15	Aug 25
Forage Turnip	10-15	Aug 15	Aug 25
Oilseed Rape	10-20	Aug 15	Aug 25
Mustard	10-15	Aug 15	Aug 25
Arugula	4	Aug 15	Aug 25
Buckwheat	75-90	Jun 1-Aug 1 <sup>c</sup>	May 15- Aug15 <sup>c</sup>

\* North = Coos, Grafton, and Carroll counties, South = all other counties

<sup>a</sup>For cereal grains that are broadcast and disked into the soil, increase seeding rate by 30%

<sup>b</sup>For cereal grain mixtures, decrease seeding rate of grain by 30%

<sup>c</sup> Seeding dates represent the range of dates (*i.e.* plant any time between Jun 1 and Aug 1)  
Legume seed shall be inoculated with appropriate bacteria