



## SQL02 Montana Supplement

### Continuous Cover Crops – (Soil Quality Enhancement Activity)

#### Montana Clarification

This enhancement is for seasonal cover crops that are planted during the non-productive periods around traditional production crops. Some distinctions of SQL02 and SQL05 are:

- SQL02 cannot be used on the same land as SQL05;
- This enhancement can be planted between crops in the fallow year;
- This enhancement can be planted between crops following harvest;
- In Montana, it is not recommended to plant cover crops following harvest of small grains in a dry land situation due to limited precipitation. If adequate moisture is present or in higher precipitation areas or if irrigation is possible, cover crops could be planted after harvest;
- SQL02 could be planted and grown from spring to fall while awaiting winter wheat planting in the fall; terminate cover crop to ensure adequate soil moisture for winter wheat crop.
- SQL02 does not require that the subsequent crop be no-tilled
- SQL02 can be a single species planting
- Grazing or removal of cover crop residues is not allowed.
- **Montana Criteria for section 1. High bio-mass cover crops for erosion control and increased soil organic matter improvement. Plant a cover crop with a growth potential to produce a minimum of 2,000 lbs/ acre not 3,000 lbs. acre**

#### Montana Specifications

No grazing or removal of crop residues is allowed. Cover crops should be terminated by chemical, mechanical or other methods prior to seed set to prevent species from becoming weeds in subsequent crops. Depth of soil moisture should be considered when terminating cocktail mixes to conserve soil moisture for crops.

Allowable planting mixes for Montana:

1. High Bio-Mass Cover Crop	2. Legume Cover Crop	3. Non-Leguminous Cover Crop	4. Weed Suppression Cover Crop	5. Bio Diversity Cover Crop <sup>(i)</sup>
“Cocktail Mixes”	Alfalfa	Brassicas	<b><u>“Cocktail Mixes”</u></b>	
Oats	Beans (Dry)	Buckwheat		
Wheat	Clovers (Alsike, Ladino, Red, or White)	Camelina		
Speltz	Field peas	Canola		
Tricale	Lentils	Radish		
Teff	Soybeans,	Spring wheat		

	Forage			
		Turnip		
		Winter wheat		

(1) Bio Diversity Cover Crops depends upon crops currently being grown in the rotation. If small grains are the primary crops grown then adding warm season grasses such as corn, millet, sudan grass or teff or adding warm season broadleaves such as sunflower, safflower or buckwheat.

#### FULL SEEDING RATES FOR COVER CROPS

SPECIES	DRILLED SEEDING RATES (lb./ac. PLS)	
	Dryland	Irrigated
barley, spring	45-60	60-75
beet, sugar <sup>2/</sup>	Not recommended	45,000 (# seeds/ac)
buckwheat	40-50	40-50
camelina	3-5	5-7
canola spring	5-8	5-8
chickpea (desi)	80-100	80-100
chickpea (kabuli)	125-150	125-150
clover berseem	8	9
Clover spp	3-6	3-6
corn <sup>2/</sup>	10-15,000 (# seeds/ac)	32-40,000 (# seeds/ac)
flax	25-45	25-45
cowpeas	20-25	20-25
lentils (IndianHead -22,000sds/lb)	40-70	40-70
millet, Foxtail	4-12	4-12
millet, Proso	15-30	15-30
oats	50-60	60-70
peas field	70-150	70-150
radishes (deep rooted)	8	10
safflower	15-20	20-30
sorghum	5-8	8- 10
sorghum / Sudangrass crosses	5-8	8- 10
soybeans	60-70	70-75
sudangrass	25-30	25-30
sunflower <sup>2/</sup>	14-21,000 (# seeds/ac)	20-25,000 (# seeds/ac)
sweetclover	4	3-6
teff	4-5	5-6
triticale spring	50-60	60-70
triticale winter	50-60	60-70
turnips	8	10
vetch	30	40
wheat spring	50-60	60-80
wheat winter	40-60	60-80

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:** Perform all seedbed preparation and planting operations in a manner that will minimize erosion until cover establishment. Control weeds in the cover crop by mowing or herbicide application. Annually terminate cover crop as late as possible in summer or fall to maximize plant growth while retaining adequate soil moisture for the subsequent crop. To avoid potential insect or disease infestations associated with green tissue, terminate cover crop at least two-three weeks prior to planting the next crop.

**Incompatible Enhancements**

Some enhancements are not compatible with other enhancements. If you have a question, contact your local NRCS office.

**Eligible Land**

Cropland

**Applicable Amount**

Acres of annually cropped land

**Documentation Requirements**

1. Crop rotation records, including rotation length in years, crops and cover crops planted.
2. Sequence and description of operations for each crop and cover crop including harvest, tillage, nutrient placement and planting/seeding **with species and seeding rates.**

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all that is required for the implementation of this CSP Enhancement Activity.

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Contract participant

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Date