



SQL02 Montana Supplement – REVISED 2/22/11

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 over SQL04 and SQL05 are:

- SQL02 cannot be used on the same land as SQL04 and 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 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;
- SQL02 does not require that the subsequent crop be no-tilled (SQL04 does);
- SQL02 can be a single species planting (SQL04 requires a mix);
- Grazing or removal of cover crop residues is not allowed.

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 ⁽²⁾
“Cocktail Mixes”	Alfalfa	Brassicas	N/A ⁽¹⁾	
Oats	Beans (Dry)	Buckwheat		
Wheat	Clovers (Alsike, Ladino, Red, or White)	Camelina		
Rye	Field peas	Canola		
Speltz	Lentils	Radish		
Triticale	Soybeans, Forage	Spring wheat		
Teff		Turnip		
		Winter wheat		

(1) Montana State University has not identified any weed suppression cover crops.

(2) 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.

SEEDING RATES FOR COVER CROPS

SPECIES (No sweet clover is allowed in this activity)	DRILLED SEEDING RATES (lb./ac. PLS)	
	Dryland	Irrigated
Alfalfa	5	6
Soybeans	45	55
Barley	15	20
Sudangrass	10	15
Cowpeas	20	25
Oats	20	30
Foxtail Millet	7	12
Clover (red, white, Alsike)	4	6
Sunflower	4	5
Winter Wheat	20	30
Sorghum	10	20
Hairy Vetch	30	40
Rye (annual)	10	15
Lentils	15	20
Triticale	15	20
Field Peas	20	30
Wheatgrass	4	8
Faba Beans	40	50
Buckwheat	15	20
Winter Canola	2	4
Rape	2	3
Radishes (Forage)	8	10
Turnips	8	10
Sugar beets	.5	1
Crambe	7	10
Flax	20	25
Camelina	2	3

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

This enhancement may not be contracted with the following enhancements:

ANM01, ANM02, ANM12, ANM21, ANM22, SOE02, SQL03

Eligible Land

Cropland

Applicable Amount

Acres of annually cropped land

Example (System)

The applicable acres are any cropland. If a participant farms 1200 acres and plans to incorporate a seasonal cover crop on 700 acres in the 1st year of the contract; the applicable acres would be 1200 acres but the applied acres would be 700 acres. The contract would look like the following:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
SQL02	700 ac				

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.

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

Contract participant

Date