



SQL04 - Montana Supplement – REVISED 3/18/11

Use of Cover Crop Mixes – (Soil Quality Enhancement Activity)

Montana Clarification

This enhancement is for the use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops and is used for the entire growing season or year round cover crops that would substitute for a fallow year. Some distinctions of SQL04 over SQL02 and SQL05 are:

- SQL04 planting mixes cannot be used as credit for SQL02 and SQL05 on the same land;
- This enhancement can be planted between crops in the fallow year;
- 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;
- SQL04 could be planted and grown from spring to fall while awaiting winter wheat planting in the fall;
- SQL04 does require that the crops planted after the cover crop be no-tilled;
- SQL04 does not allow single species planting;
- Cover crops, such as a “cocktail mix” grown in the fallow year could be planted in early spring for a cool season mix or planted in late spring to early summer when using a warm season mix. Cover crops should be terminated prior to seed set to reduce chance cover crop species from becoming weeds in the following crops. When termination is done should be determined by planting date, species planted, seed set and soil moisture.
- Grazing or removal of cover crop residues will not be 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. Montana will not allow 2 different cultivars of the same species in the mix.

Allowable planting mixes for Montana:

Cool Season Broadleaves	Warm Season Broadleaves	Cool Season Grasses	Warm Season Grasses
Alfalfa Camelina Canola Clover Crambe Faba Beans Peas, field Flax	Buckwheat Cowpeas Safflower Soybeans Sunflower	Barley Durum Wheat Oats Rye (annual) Sorghum Spring Wheat Triticale Winter Wheat	Corn Millet Sorghum Sudangrass Teff

Lentils Radishes (Forage & Daikon) Sugar beets Turnip Vetch			
--	--	--	--

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

Incompatible Enhancements

This enhancement may not be contracted with the following enhancements:

ANM02, ANM12, ANM21, ANM22, SOE02, SQL03

Eligible Land

Cropland

Applicable Amount

Acres of cropland

Example (System)

The applicable acres are any cropland. If a participant farms 160 acres and plans to rotate a cover crop mix throughout the 160 acres in a new rotation in the 1st year; the applicable acres would be 160 acres and the applied acres would be 160 acres. The Toolkit plan would look like the following:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
SQL04	160 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