

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL10 – Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen

Louisiana Criteria

When growing annual grass-type cover crops during non-crop production periods of a rotation to scavenge residual nitrogen, the following state-specific criteria must be considered in addition to WQL10 enhancement sheet criteria:

1. Plants selected to scavenge nitrogen following an annual harvested crop must be selected from the following list:
 - Annual Ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*)
 - Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)
 - Oats (*Avena sativa*)
 - Cereal Rye (*Secale cereale*)
 - Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)
 - Sorghum-sudangrass (*Sorghum bicolor* X *S. bicolor* var. *Sudanese*)
 - Radish (*Raphanus sativus*)
 - Rapeseed (*Brassica rapa*)
 - Berseem clover (*Trifolium alexandrinum*)
2. Cover crops planted to scavenge residual nitrogen cannot be harvested. To maximize nitrogen available for the upcoming crop, they should also be terminated prior to seeding and, at a minimum, 3-4 weeks prior to planting using conventional tillage and 4-6 weeks prior to planting using approved herbicides.
3. Since nitrogen scavenged **cannot** be estimated with any precision, producers will simply reduce their nitrogen application rate by 15% (as per WQL10 guidance)

NRCS Field Office personnel should assist producers in selecting the appropriate cover crops to fit their rotation, cash crop planting dates, and all other site-specific factors. The NRCS Cover Crop (340) standard must be followed.