



Iowa Bulletin: 180-23-1

Date: October 28, 2022

Subject: 180-Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Waiver for Winter Hardy Cover Crop Seeding Dates

Purpose. To provide a waiver for FY 2023 seeding dates for winter hardy cover crops.

Expiration Date. June 1, 2023.

Explanation. A winter hardy cover crop species or mix can be certified as applied if it is seeded by the last published seeding date listed in the CPS 340 Cover Crop Implementation Requirement, "340_IA_IR_Cover_Crop_2021.xlsm" found in Section 4 of the Field Office Technical Guide.

The cover crop seeding windows were developed using historical weather records to provide a high confidence of establishing the species when seeded within these windows. Seeding after the published dates decreases survivability and establishment probability.

Conversations between the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the producer are critical to implementing cover crops successfully on their farm. This conversation becomes even more important when seeding outside of the recommended seeding window.

A producer will be allowed to seed winter hardy cover crop species or mix after the last published seeding date and prior to December 21, 2022, if they agree to the stipulations listed below.

1. The conversation and strategies the producer will use to increase the likelihood of success and benefit from the cover crop will be documented in the CPA-6 notes.
2. The producer will acknowledge the additional risk for establishment and benefit from seeding the cover crop outside of the recommended timeframe. Producer acknowledgement may be verbal, email, signed statement or signature at the bottom of this waiver.
3. The cover crop will not be certified as applied until growth is documented in the field in the spring by NRCS. Documentation will consist of several photos taken with the camera pointed straight down from a height of approximately 4 ft. The majority of the field will be represented by at least three random points.

Note: Waiver request forms do not have to be submitted for approval in FY2023.

Contact. If you have questions about the contents of this bulletin, please contact Michael Henderson, State Resource Conservationist, at 515-323-2292.

Jon Hubbert
State Conservationist

DIST: E