

Resources for Small Scale Farms and Gardens

COVER CROP RESOURCES



Overview Document: This 4-page document defines a cover crop and the benefits this practice can provide to small scale operations.
<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/USDA-NRCS-Indiana-Small-Farms-and-Gardens-Cover-Crop-Overview.pdf>



Seeding Methods Guide: This 8-page document details the most common seeding methods and important considerations when seeding a cover crop on a small scale.
<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/USDA-NRCS-Indiana-Small-Farms-and-Gardens-Cover-Crop-Seeding-Methods.pdf>



Termination Guide: This comprehensive 19-page guide explains cover crop termination methods, the pros and cons of methods, timing, and crop considerations for small scale growers.
<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/USDA-NRCS-Indiana-Small-Farms-and-Gardens-Cover-Crop-Termination.pdf>



Cover Crop Table: Handy table that lists cover crop species suitable for small scale use in Indiana and details such as C:N at maturity, minimum germination temperature, seeding rate, and more!
<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/USDA-NRCS-Indiana-Cover-Crop-Table-for-Small-Farms-and-Gardens.pdf>



Cover Crop Tool: Conservation spreadsheet tool to assist with designing cover crop mixes for small scale areas and determine seeding rates.
<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/46207/>



Cover Crop Tool Training: Watch the training on how to use the IN Cover Crop Tool <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bumyjsa7AM>

MULCHING RESOURCES



Overview Document: An introduction into using mulch on small scale areas and material considerations such as the effect on soil moisture, planting methods, C:N ratios, longevity and more.
https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/46683/484_IN_PO_Mulching_for_Small_Farms_and_Gardens_2024



Mulching Tool: This spreadsheet tool assists conservation planners, farmers and gardeners to plan mulching and includes an area calculator.
<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/46682/>



Training: Watch the training on how to use the IN Mulching Tool
<https://ccsin.app.box.com/s/sn5km293xyin7hcihfntntq32rqu35rm/file/1540454673263>

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RESOURCES



Nutrient Management Tool: Calculator to assist with soil test records, fertilizer recommendations and applicable rates of fertilizers, compost and other fertility products based on soil tests for the commonly grown vegetables and produce found in Indiana. <https://marionswcd.org/indiana-nutrient-management-tool/>



Training: Watch the training on how to use the Nutrient Management Tool
<https://ccsin.app.box.com/s/sn5km293xyin7hcihfntntq32rqu35rm/file/1478803350260>

IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES



Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan: A guide for small scale producers to determine how much water to apply and when to apply it when using an irrigation system. https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/45258/449_IN_OTH_Irrigation_Water_Management_Plan_for_Small_Farms_and_Gardens_2023



Training: Watch the training on how to complete the datasheet in the IWM Plan. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1NPG28AiWs>

LOW TUNNEL RESOURCES



Low Tunnel Overview: This 2-page document introduces the low tunnel practice to planners and growers, describing the benefits and components of the low tunnel system.

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/46361/821_IN_PO_Low_Tunnel_Systems_2024

HIGH TUNNEL RESOURCES



High Tunnel System Implementation Requirements:

This document lists the requirements that must be met for construction of a high tunnel through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program as well as basic information on site selection, considerations, and management of a high tunnel system. https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/46208/325_IN_IR_High_Tunnel_System_2024.pdf



Indiana High Tunnel Handbook: This comprehensive handbook provides information for growers on the benefits, challenges and considerations of incorporating a high tunnel into a farming operation. Topics include site preparation, high tunnel selection and construction, planting dates and spacing, and environmental, soil, pest and weed management. <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ho/ho-296.pdf>

NATIVE PLANTING RESOURCES



Wildlife Plug Planting Calculator: An excel based tool that lists suitable native grass and forb species for plug plantings on small areas based on site characteristics and targeted wildlife species. https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/40039/000_IN_EST_NRCS_Wildlife_Plug_Planting_Calculator_2023



Native Plantings for Beneficial Insects and Pollinators Document
<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/marionswcd-native-plantings-for-beneficial-insects-and-pollinators.pdf>



Wildflowers for Beneficial Insects Document
<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/MarionCountySWCD-Wildflowers-for-Beneficial-Insects.pdf>



Beneficial Insects for Fruit and Vegetable Growers Document
<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/MarionCountySWCD-Beneficial-Insects-for-Fruit-and-Vegetable-Growers.pdf>

INNRCs URBAN/SMALL SCALE TRAINING SERIES (AUGUST 2022 – APRIL 2023)

Training to provide consistent messaging, conservation planning, program consideration, and customer service for urban, small scale, specialty crop, and other 'non-traditional' customers.

101: Getting Customers Started



201: Technical Planning



Part 1



Part 2

301: Programs



Part 1



Part 2

401: Technical Specifications



Part 1



Part 2

All resources listed and many more, can be found at:



Marion County SWCD
<https://marionswcd.org/soilhealth/>

Urban Soil Health
www.urbansoilhealth.org/resources

