



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E340134Z

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

Cover crops to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles

Conservation Practice 340: Cover Crop

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Establish a cover crop mix to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles. Select cover crop species for their life cycles, growth habits, and other biological, chemical and/or physical characteristics. Select cover crop species that do not harbor pests or diseases of subsequent crops in the rotation. Cover crop shall not be harvested, grazed, or burned.

Criteria

- Plant species, seedbed preparation, seeding rates, seeding dates, seeding depths, fertility requirements, and planting methods will be consistent with applicable local criteria and soil/site conditions <REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC LISTS>.
- Determine method and timing of cover crop termination to meet grower's objective and current NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines.
- Select species that are compatible with other components of the cropping system.
- Ensure herbicides used with crops are compatible with cover crop selections.



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- Cover crops may be established between successive production crops, or companion-planted or relay-planted into production crops. Select species and planting dates that will not compete with production crop yield or harvest.
- Do not burn cover crop residue.
- Do not harvest or graze cover crop.
- If specific rhizobium bacteria for selected legumes are not present in the soil, treat seed with appropriate inoculum at time of planting.
- Select cover crop species that do not harbor pests or diseases of subsequent crops in the rotation. Select cover crop species for their life cycles, growth habits, and other biological, chemical and or physical characteristics to provide one or more of the following:
 - To suppress weeds, or compete with weeds.
 - Break pest life cycles or suppress of plant pests or pathogens.
 - Provide food or habitat for natural enemies of pests.
 - Release compounds such as glucosinolates that suppress soil borne pathogens or pests.

Documentation Requirements

- Cover Crop, 340, Implementation Requirements document must be completed per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.