

Marion County SWCD Favorite Cover Crop Mixes

Cover Crop Mix	Rate L-N-H	Suitable Next Crop
Winterkill Cover Crop		Early spring crops - transplanted or direct seeded
Oats	N	<i>Beets, Carrots, Lettuce, Peas, Spinach, Various crops</i>
Field Peas	L	Plant in fall - Cover crop winterkills. Remove weeds or tarp for 6 weeks in March. Rake CC mulch into pathway before planting crop. Mulch up with compost before or after planting crop. Furrow with pointed hoe and plant crop. Direct seed or transplant crop
Lacy Phacelia (optional)	L	
Oilseed Radish (optional)	L	
Overwintering Legume Cover Crop		Direct seeded crops
Oats	L	<i>Sweet corn, Various crops</i>
Hairy Vetch	H	Plant in fall - Legumes overwinter. Weed whack in spring and leave residue on bed. Tarp for 2 weeks or until fully terminated. Lightly rake aboveground residue from planting rows. Furrow with pointed hoe and plant crop. Mulch up with compost for 100% soil cover before or after planting.
and/or		
Crimson Clover	H	
Overwintering Legume Cover Crop		Transplanted crops
Oats	L	<i>Brassicas, Tomatoes, Peppers, Various crops</i>
Hairy Vetch	H	Plant in fall - Legumes overwinter. Weed whack 10 days before planting spring crop. Mulch up with layer of newspaper and straw or compost. Wait 10 days to ensure cover crop termination. Open spaces in mulch and transplant crop.
and/or		
Crimson Clover	H	
Overwintering High Biomass Cover Crop		Transplanted or large seeded late crops (May, June)
Cereal Rye	H	<i>Tomatoes, Peppers, Melons, Sweet Potato, Squash</i>
Crimson Clover	L	Plant in fall to late fall - Cover crop overwinters. Scout and spot weed in fall and spring. Weed whack or crimp in mid-April to early June. Tarp for 25 days or until fully terminated. Broadfork if needed to alleviate compaction or ease planting. Mulch up for 100% soil cover before or after planting crop. Transplant or make space in mulch for direct seed.
Hairy Vetch	L	
Add diversity (optional)	L	
Refer to the Indiana Cover Crop Table for Small Farms and Gardens for rates (Low-Normal-High) in Oz/100 square feet. Results may vary based on soils, climate, and weed pressure. For all mixes and strategies, scout for weeds often and spot weed. If cover crop plots become too weedy to effectively spot weed, terminate early with tarp. Broadfork before planting cover crop or crop if soil is compact or to ease planting.		
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Spring Cover Crop		Transplanted or large seeded late crops (June, July)
Oats	N	<i>Late beans, squash, melons, peppers</i>
Field Peas	N	Plant in early spring (early April).
Flax (optional)	L	Crimp or weed whack in late spring or early summer.
Lacy Phacelia (optional)	L	Tarp for 25 days or until fully terminated.
		Make space in mulch for transplants or direct seed.
Summer High Biomass Cover Crop		Fall crop or fall cover crop
Sorghum Sudangrass	N	Plant in summer after spring crop harvest
Sunn Hemp	N	Allow to grow tall or weed whack down to 1' and allow to regrow
Add diversity (optional)	L	The mix often winterkills in October
		If planting fall crops, crimp or weedwhack and tarp until terminated. Make space in mulch for transplants or direct seed.
Summer Low Biomass Cover Crop		Fall crop or cover crop
Buckwheat	H	Plant in summer after spring crop harvest.
Cowpeas (optional)	N	Buckwheat flowers in approximately 6 weeks.
		Crimp or weed whack and tarp for 1 to 2 weeks to full terminate. Allow 20 days after termination before planting small seeded crops.
<p>Refer to the Indiana Cover Crop Table for Small Farms and Gardens for rates (Low-Normal-High) in Oz/100 square feet.</p> <p>Results may vary based on soils, climate, and weed pressure.</p> <p>For all mixes and strategies, scout for weeds often and spot weed.</p> <p>If cover crop plots become too weedy to effectively spot weed, terminate early with tarp.</p> <p>Broadfork before planting cover crop or crop if soil is compact or to ease planting.</p>		
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