

# COVER CROP FACT SHEET



## Why Plant Cover Crops?

Cover crops can help keep nutrients in the root zone and available for crop use, reduce nutrients making it to surface water via runoff, break through compaction, increase soil organic matter, improve crop diversity on farm and attract pollinators. With changing weather patterns, cover crops can help your fields be more resilient to extreme weather.

## Things to Consider

- What is your objective?
- Do you want a cover that winter kills or over winters?
- Timing that fits with your crop rotation

## What are Cover Crops?

A crop grown for seasonal cover, weed control, improve soil health and to help slow erosion. Typically, small grains, legumes or brassicas are planted as cover crops in the off season, some winter kill and others over winter.

Cover crop options:

Single species cover crops with termination: a single cover crop that overwinters and will need to be terminated before planting of cash crop

Single species cover crops, no termination: a single cover crop that will winter kill and not require termination before planting of cash crop

Multi species cover crops: two or more cover crops in a mix with at least one overwintering and requiring termination before planting of cash crop



Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department

CALL: 920-683-4183 VISIT: [HTTPS://MANITOWOCCOUNTYWI.GOV/DEPARTMENTS/SOIL-AND-WATER-CONSERVATION/BEST-MANAGEMENT-PRACTICES/](https://manitowoccountywi.gov/departments/soil-and-water-conservation/best-management-practices/)