

# Field Crops Research Protocols

## Corn Planting Date Following Cover Crop Termination

**Objective:** Determine if corn can be planted near the time of cover crop termination when the cover crop is terminated before 6-in. of growth is achieved.

**Farmer-cooperator will:**

- Take photos throughout the project and keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- **Fall 2017**, seed cover crop.
- **Spring 2018**, terminate cover crop approximately Apr. 20.
- Establish at least 4 replications as shown in the diagram below of two treatments:
  - **Plant corn at time of cover crop termination (~Apr. 20)**
  - **Plant corn 10-14 days after cover crop termination (~May 5)**
- Strips will be as wide as at least one combine pass and run the length of the field.
- Collect aboveground biomass samples of cover crop from strips just prior to termination.
- Allow Dr. Alison Robertson's team to sample corn seedlings for disease prevalence.
- **Summer 2018**, photograph trial progress.
- Allow Dr. Robertson's team to sample mature corn plants for stalk disease prevalence.
- **Fall 2018**, harvest corn from strips individually.
- Turn in all info and data pertinent to this trial to Practical Farmers of Iowa by the end of the project.



**Practical Farmers of Iowa will:**

- Help coordinate with Dr. Robertson (ISU).
- Help set up monitoring protocol, monitor progress of project and provide support when needed.
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website and potentially other outlets.
- Provide \$550 compensation when yield data is submitted at conclusion of the project in 2018.

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