



Your Information Here



Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership  
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

# Developing a Winning **Cover Crop Plan** with Your Customer

## Key Questions

Does the customer have past experience with cover crops?

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What is the customer's tolerance of risk? (e.g., cover crop success, following crop impacts)

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What are the primary and secondary goals for cover crops? (e.g., erosion control, soil health, forage, water quality)^

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Field Nickname(s) (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

Current Year's Crop (corn, soybeans) Anticipated Harvest Date\_\_\_\_\_

Next Year's Crop (corn, soybeans)\_\_\_\_\_

Fall Tillage Type\_\_\_\_\_

Spring Tillage Type\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Seeding Method (aerial, drill, floater, high clearance sprayer, other)\_\_\_\_\_

Does the customer prefer winter kill or overwinter cover crop?<sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

Why?\_\_\_\_\_

What are the planned nitrogen source(s), timing and method of application?

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Planned spring termination method (herbicide, tillage, mowing, grazing, crimping)\_\_\_\_\_

Will spring cash crop seedbed conditions be similar to other fields? (Yes/No)<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

If no, what planter adjustments are needed to account for cover crop residue conditions? \_\_\_\_\_

### Responsibilities<sup>3</sup>

- |                               |                                   |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Cover crop seed procurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |
| • Cover crop seeding          | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |
| • Nitrogen application        | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |
| • Spring termination          | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |

### Recommendations

What to plant \_\_\_\_\_

When to plant \_\_\_\_\_

Seeding rate<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

If not using certified seed, make sure to hit the target rate recommendations based on pure live seed (PLS).

Seed dealer recommendations \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Resources

- PFI Cover Crop Decision Tree
- Midwest Cover Crops Council - Cover Crop Decision Tool
- Iowa Cover Crops Working Group
- ISU Extension Cover Crops Publications - Small Grain Cover Crops for Corn and Soybean
- NRCS Agronomy Technical Notes 36 and 38
- ^Managing Cover Crops Profitably (3rd Edition)

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<sup>1</sup> Note greater impact of overwinter species on nearly all potential goals (soil health, erosion control, etc.). If winterkill, consider previous year residual herbicide program to ensure no restrictions.

<sup>2</sup> See ISU-Mark Hanna video series on planter conversions on YouTube (e.g., Closing Systems)

<sup>3</sup> Plan ahead for spring management and provide timely service.

<sup>4</sup> Confirm rates are consistent with specifications if seeking financial assistance.