

Practical Cover Cropper - Using an in-row roller for earlier soybean planting

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



In-Row Roller-Crimping Cereal Rye for Earlier Soybean Planting

Roller-crimping a cereal rye cover crop for soybean production provides non-chemical weed control, but often with the caveat of delayed soybean planting dates. Looking for a way to plant soybeans earlier while reaping the benefits of a roller-crimped cereal rye cover crop, **Michael Vittetoe** of Washington, Iowa, began experimenting with in-row rolling a few years ago.

Michael's system consists of a 10-inch, twin-row cereal rye cover crop growing between 30-inch spaced soybeans. With this system, he's able to plant his soybeans at the end of April, and, in early June, uses in-row roller units on a 40-

foot bar to roll the cereal rye down to provide a moisture-conserving, weed-suppressing mulch.

"By having the soybeans shaded early and then giving them full sunlight you get more branching which creates more nodes, the nodes create more beans, and more beans create more revenue for our operation," he says.

In this video recorded in 2022, you'll hear why this system works for him and the benefits he sees to his soybean crop with the rolled cereal rye.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Field day season is quickly approaching



Get ready for our 2024 field day season, boasting nearly 60 field days on farms across Iowa and neighboring states.

Our field days will cover topics from relay cropping to grazing cover crops and beyond. All field days are free and open to the public.

Watch your email inbox and, if you're a member, watch your mailbox for our printed guide in May.

Boost conservation practices on your farm with financial support



Did you know PFI can support the following conservation practices on your farm?

- Prairie strips (buffer strips)
- Pollinator habitat
- Precision conservation analysis

Submit an interest form to get started.

After you submit the form, our staff will reach out to discuss PFI's program options for your farm's specific needs, and how PFI's programs can

complement additional offerings from federal, state and local organizations.

Come work with the PFI team



We are currently hiring for positions across several departments at PFI. If you or someone you know are interested in any of the following positions, apply or share with your network:

- [Human resources coordinator](#)
- [Digital content coordinator](#)
- [Senior research coordinator](#)
- [Senior geospatial data coordinator](#)

IN THE FIELD

New research report: "Soybean Maturities in Delayed Termination Rye"



In 2023, six PFI cooperators conducted a trial to find out how soybean relative maturity (early or late) and cereal rye cover crop termination timing (near-plant or delayed) impacted yield when planting green.

[Read the research report and see the results.](#)

2018 research report: "Soybean Row-Width and Seeding Date When Using a Roller-Crimper for Cereal Rye Cover Crop"



Waiting to plant organic, no-till soybeans until terminating cereal rye by roller-crimping delays planting to late May.

To try to plant soybeans earlier in roll-crimped cereal rye, **Scott Shriver** planted soybeans 17, 13 and zero days before roller-crimping and compared yields and stand counts.

[Read this research report to review Scott's key findings.](#)

Additional resources

- PFI research report: **["Clover Cover Crop Termination Date for a Rye-Corn System"](#)**
- "Practical Cover Cropper" video series: **["Roller Crimping Cereal Rye in Soybean Production"](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free, farmer-led cover crop workshop



Thursday, Aug. 6 | 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. | Gothenburg, NE

Get our **[Central Nebraska Cover Crop Workshop](#)** on your calendar!

Join other farmers of all experience levels in discussing the role of cover crops in drought conditions, how they benefit soil health, and the opportunities they provide for input reduction and livestock feed.

Come network with other farmers while exploring how to make cover crops work in Nebraska.

Friends of PFI events

All events listed are in Central time.

May 29-30: Workshop – Soil is a Living System

Hosted by: Green Cover and Dr. Christine Jones
Bladen, NE

June 12: Virtual Event – Illinois Cover Crop On-Farm Network Monthly Calls

Hosted by: Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership
9-10 a.m. | **Online**

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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Chat with our cover crops team by calling the PFI office at (515)-232-5661.

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