Popular Cover Crops

Winter Hardy

Cereal rye: 45 lb./acre minimum

Triticale: 45 lbs/ ac minimum

Winter Wheat: 45 lbs/acre min.

Winter Kill

Oats: 60 lbs/ac

Turnip: 4 lbs/ac

Rapeseed: 5–10 lb/acre drilled; 8–14 lb/acre broadcast.

Radish: 8-10 lb/acre drilled; 12-14 lb/acre broadcast.

Hairy Vetch: 15 to 20 lb./acre drilled; 25 to 40 lb./acre broadcast

Mustard 5-12 lb/acre drilled; 10-15 lb/acre broadcast.

Winter peas: 60 to 90 lb/acre

Cost-Share

-$25/ac winterkill

-$25/ ac winter-hardy crops

***there is no cap on cover crop acres**

How to apply?

Call your local Soil and Water Conservation District and talk to office staff about enrolling your land. Have farm and tract numbers handy!

Field Office's

Grundy Center: 319-824-36-34

Waterloo: 319-269-3262

Toledo: 641-484-2702

Marshalltown: 319-824-5416

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

GRUNDY COUNTY IOWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Black Hawk Creek Watershed Improvement Project

Working to improve soil and water health within the watershed.

Black Hawk Creek Watershed

Grundy County SWCD
805 West 4th Street
Grundy Center, Iowa 50638
Faith Luce (Project Coordinator)
Phone: 319-824-3634

Cover Crops

Cover crops are a non-cash crop planted into standing cash crops or bare fields following harvest. Cover crops improve soil quality by reducing erosion, soil nutrients, reducing soil compaction, improving organic matter and nutrient cycling, and improved water infiltration.

Seeding Methods:

1. Drilling: ensures seed-to-soil contact promoting faster germination using less seed.

2. Precision planting with 15-inch rows: allows for better soil tilth and faster nutrient uptake.

3. High-clearance applicator: The application occurs while the crop is still standing.

4. Aerial seeding: great with a wet, late harvest.

5. Vertical tillage: seed at same time, as a quick and inexpensive option.

6. Seed while you combine: Seed loss is minimal.

No-Till

No till is the absence of tillage. This is beneficial in retaining the natural structure of soil (reducing erosion) and carbon and other nutrients stored within the soil. As well as reducing fuel, labor, and equipment costs . It takes time to see the benefits of no-till, soil needs time to regain structure.

No-tillage is recommended ahead of soybean regardless of location, slope, or drainage.

Cost-Share for No-Till/Strip Till

$10/ac for first time users with a cap of 160 acres.

Strip-till:

Strip-till is where tillage is limited to where next year's crop will be planted, reducing soil disturbance. Strip tillage benefits include reduced soil erosion, increased soil organic matter and reduced phosphorus entering waterways, as well as increased soil organic matter.

The advantages of strip-till:

-Optimal placement of fertilizers for plant uptake

- Improved conditions for seed-to-soil contact at planting.

* Strip-tillage ahead of corn is recommended for poorly drained, low slope fields.