



Cover Crop Selection and Implementation Checklist

Goal Definition & Planning

Clearly define objectives for cover cropping to guide selection and management.

Primary Goal of Cover Cropping?

Write something...

Which of the following are your objectives?

- ☐ Soil Erosion Control
- ☐ Weed Suppression
- ☐ Nutrient Scavenging/Cycling
- ☐ Improving Soil Structure
- ☐ Increasing Soil Organic Matter
- ☐ Breaking Disease/Pest Cycles
- ☐ Beneficial Insect Habitat
- ☐ Other (Specify in LONG_TEXT)

Target increase in Soil Organic Matter (%) (if applicable)

Enter a number...

Date of planned cover crop termination

Enter date...

Any specific concerns or limitations regarding cover crop implementation?

Write something...

Level of experience with cover cropping:

- ☐ Beginner
- ☐ Intermediate
- ☐ Experienced

Site Assessment & Soil Analysis

Understand soil type, fertility, existing vegetation, and potential challenges.

Describe Existing Vegetation and Crop History

Write something...

Soil pH (0-14)

Enter a number...

Soil Organic Matter (%)

Enter a number...

Available Nitrogen (lbs/acre)

Enter a number...

Dominant Soil Texture (e.g., Sandy, Loamy, Clay)

- ☐ Sandy
- ☐ Loamy
- ☐ Clay
- ☐ Silty
- ☐ Other (Specify)


Known Soil Limitations/Challenges

- ☐ Compaction
- ☐ Poor Drainage
- ☐ Low Fertility
- ☐ Erosion Prone
- ☐ Salinity
- ☐ None

Date of Last Soil Test

Enter date...

Upload Soil Test Results (PDF/CSV)

 Upload File

Cover Crop Species Selection

Choose appropriate cover crop species based on goals, site conditions, and desired benefits.

Primary Goal of Cover Cropping (Choose One)

- ☐ Erosion Control
- ☐ Nitrogen Fixation
- ☐ Weed Suppression
- ☐ Soil Organic Matter Improvement
- ☐ Water Infiltration Enhancement
- ☐ Pest/Disease Break
- ☐ Pollinator Habitat

Desired Cover Crop Characteristics (Select All That Apply)

- ☐ Fast Growth
- ☐ Cold Tolerance
- ☐ Warm Season Preference
- ☐ High Biomass Production
- ☐ Nitrogen Fixation
- ☐ Good Weed Suppression
- ☐ Pollinator Attraction

Soil Type

- ☐ Sandy
- ☐ Loamy
- ☐ Clay
- ☐ Silty
- ☐ Mixed

Desired Biomass (lbs/acre)

Enter a number...

Specific Challenges with Soil?

Write something...

Preferred Cover Crop Family (optional)

- ☐ Legumes
- ☐ Grasses
- ☐ Brassicas
- ☐ Cereals
- ☐ None

Seed Acquisition & Budgeting

Source seed from reputable suppliers and estimate costs for seed, equipment, and labor.

Estimated Acres to be Covered

Enter a number...

Seed Source Preference

- ☐ Local Seed Supplier
- ☐ Online Retailer
- ☐ Cooperative
- ☐ Farm Saved Seed

Seed Cost per Pound/Unit

Enter a number...

Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)

Enter a number...

Total Seed Cost (Calculated)

Enter a number...

Application Method Cost (Drilling, Broadcasting, Aerial)

Enter a number...

Labor Cost for Planting (Estimate)

Enter a number...

Total Budgeted Cost

Enter a number...

Notes on Seed Selection and Price Justification

Write something...

Planting & Establishment

Implement planting methods suitable for the cover crop and ensure successful establishment.

Target Planting Date

Enter date...

Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)

Enter a number...

Planting Method

- ☐ Drilling
- ☐ Broadcasting
- ☐ Air Seeding
- ☐ Interseeding

Row Spacing (inches)

Enter a number...

Notes on Planting Conditions (e.g., soil moisture, temperature)

Write something...

Seed Source/Supplier

Photo of Initial Planting (Optional)

 Upload File

Planting Depth (inches)

Enter a number...

Management During Growth

Monitor cover crop growth and manage for desired outcomes (e.g., weed suppression, nutrient cycling).

Monitor Cover Crop Height

Enter a number...

Observe for Weed Pressure

- ☐ Low
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ High

Describe Observed Pests or Diseases

Write something...

Date of Last Herbicide Application (if applicable)

Enter date...

Estimate Ground Cover Percentage (0-100)

Enter a number...

Assess Nitrogen Status (visual cues)

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Slight Deficiency
- ☐ Deficient

Note Any Unusual Growth or Discoloration

Write something...

Termination & Incorporation

Plan and execute appropriate termination and incorporation methods, considering residue management.

Termination Method Selected

- ☐ Roller-Crimper
- ☐ Mowing
- ☐ Herbicide Application
- ☐ Winterkill (Natural)
- ☐ Other (Specify in LONG_TEXT)

If 'Other' Termination Method Selected, Please Describe:

Write something...

Planned Termination Date

Enter date...

Herbicide Application Rate (if applicable)

Enter a number...

Incorporation Method(s) Planned

- ☐ No-Till/Direct Seed
- ☐ Disking
- ☐ Tillage (Specify type in LONG_TEXT)
- ☐ Strip-Till

If 'Tillage' selected, please specify tillage type:

Write something...

Incorporation Depth (inches)

Enter a number...

Photos of Termination & Incorporation (Optional)

 Upload File

Post-Termination Soil Health Monitoring

Assess the impact of cover cropping on soil health indicators (e.g., organic matter, water infiltration).

Date of Cover Crop Termination

Enter date...

Soil Organic Matter (SOM) - Pre Cover Crop (%)

Enter a number...

Soil Organic Matter (SOM) - Post Cover Crop (%)

Enter a number...

Soil Aggregate Stability (measured by method X) – Pre Cover Crop

Enter a number...

Soil Aggregate Stability (measured by method X) – Post Cover Crop

Enter a number...

Infiltration Rate (cm/hr) - Pre Cover Crop

Enter a number...

Infiltration Rate (cm/hr) - Post Cover Crop

Enter a number...

Visual Soil Assessment Score (VSA) - Pre Cover Crop (Scale 0-10)

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10

Visual Soil Assessment Score (VSA) – Post Cover Crop (Scale 0-10)

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10

Record Keeping & Evaluation

Track cover crop performance, costs, and benefits to inform future decisions.

Planting Date

Enter date...

Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)

Enter a number...

Cost of Seed (\$/acre)

Enter a number...

Observations during Growth (weed pressure, disease, etc.)

Write something...

Termination Date

Enter date...

Termination Method (e.g., herbicide, roller crimper, tillage)

Write something...

Estimated Biomass (tons/acre)

Enter a number...

Overall Success (Subjective)

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Recommendations for Next Year

Write something...