



Cooperator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tract/Field/Management Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose for planning and applying this practice (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Reduce erosion from wind and water</b> (Attach <a href="#">Excel WEQ</a> and or <a href="#">RUSLE 2</a> output that includes the cover crop)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Increase soil organic matter content</b> (Attach <a href="#">RUSLE 2</a> Soil Conditioning Index output that indicates a positive trend in the soil organic matter sub-factor)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile</b> (Attach copies of the current soil test and or sub-soil nitrate analyses)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Promote biological nitrogen fixation</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Increase biodiversity</b> (Attach a completed <a href="#">Pest Management 595 Job Sheet</a> and or applicable <a href="#">Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide</a> )
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Weed suppression</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Provide supplemental forage</b> (Attach <a href="#">Excel WEQ</a> and or <a href="#">RUSLE 2</a> output that indicates acceptable amounts of forage removal)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Soil moisture management</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere</b> (Attach <a href="#">Excel WEQ</a> and or <a href="#">RUSLE 2</a> output that indicate 80% ground cover during planting operations for the subsequent crop)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Minimize and reduce soil compaction</b>

Seedbed Preparation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare a firm, weed-free seedbed that will permit drilling at normal seeding depth.</li> <li>2. When seeding into residue of a harvested crop, seedbed preparation may not be necessary.</li> </ol>
Comment/Additional Requirements

**Seeding Recommendation - Select appropriate seeding rates from the tables below.**

1. Pounds per acre listed below are solid stand full seeding rates.
2. For winter covers, increase the maximum seeding rate 2 lbs/acre/day during the last 10 days of the planting period. E.g. the seeding rate for irrigated winter rye on October 10 is 100 lb/acre
3. Hairy vetch or Sweet clover may be mixed with other covers, but should not be planted to a solid stand full seeding rate. Adjust recommended seeding rates proportionately to the percentage of each species in the mix.
4. Summer cover crops will provide winter cover, but cannot be planted in the fall.
5. Limit nonirrigated small grain covers to areas that receive at least 10 inches annual precipitation.
6. Limit nonirrigated sorghum and sudangrass covers to areas that receive at least 12 inches annual precipitation, more than 1 inch average precipitation in July, and an average July temperature above 65° F.
7. Limit nonirrigated annual ryegrass covers to areas that receive at least 14 inches annual precipitation.
8. Seed winter cover crops as soon as possible after harvest, or broadcast prior to harvest.

**Winter Cover**

Crop	Planting dates	Nonirrigated	Irrigated
Winter rye	Aug 15 to Oct 10	30-40	60-80
Winter wheat	Aug 15 to Sept 30	30-40	60-80
Triticale	Aug 15 to Sept 30	30-40	60-80
Hairy vetch †	Aug 15 to Sept 15		15-25

**Summer Cover**

Crop	Planting dates	Nonirrigated	Irrigated
Annual ryegrass	April 1 to July 1	4-8	8-16
Spring small grain	April 1 to July 1	25-35	50-70
Millet	May 15 to July 15	3-10	6-20
Sorghum ‡	May 15 to July 15	2-4	5-8
Sudangrass ‡	May 15 to July 15	5-10	10-20
Sorghum Sudangrass ‡	May 15 to July 15	10-12	20-25
Sweet clover	May 15 to July 15	4	7

† Not suited for MLRAs E-48A, E-48B or E-51

‡ San Luis Valley - Plant between June 1 and June 10, or when soil temperatures reach 60° F.

**Seeding Recommendation/Additional Requirements**

<b>Management and Incorporation</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Limit grazing if it will decrease the effectiveness of the cover crop</li> <li>2. Incorporate cover crop residues only to the extent necessary to kill the cover crop and facilitate planting of the next crop.</li> <li>3. Include the cover crop and residue removal in the Nutrient Management Plan, in order to grow an effective cover.</li> </ol>
<b>Green Manure Crops</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Green manure crops are not generally recommended for nonirrigated cropping systems.</li> <li>2. Suitable green Manure crops are legumes such as Alfalfa, Sweet clover or Hairy vetch.</li> <li>3. Mix Sweet clover or Hairy vetch with small grain.</li> </ol>
<b>Operation and Maintenance</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Control growth of the cover crop to decrease competition from volunteer plants and shading.</li> <li>2. Control weeds in the cover crop by mowing or other pest management techniques, provided they do not interfere with the next crop.</li> <li>3. Control soil moisture depletion by selecting water efficient plant species and terminating the cover crop before excessive transpiration can occur.</li> </ol>
<b>Comment/Additional Requirements</b>

<b>Signatures</b>
I reviewed this plan including the Operation and Maintenance requirements and agree to implement as written.
Cooperator _____ Date _____
Planning of this practice is complete and consistent with NRCS 340 Standard Criteria for the stated purpose(s).
Conservationist _____ Date _____
Application of this practice is complete and consistent with NRCS 340 Standard Criteria for the stated purpose(s).
District Conservationist _____ Date _____