

AERIAL SEEDING WHEAT

CONSERVATION DESIGN SHEET

AGRONOMY SERIES May 1997



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michigan



Al Schiffer, Ovid, aerial seeding wheat in Clinton County

What is Aerial Seeding Wheat ?

The broadcast seeding of wheat from an airplane directly into a standing crop, generally soybeans, before harvest is referred to as aerial seeding wheat.

How Does Aerial Seeding Wheat Work ?

Wheat is aurally seeded by a certified aerial applicator in wide swaths of 40-60 feet. Most planes carry 30-40 bushels of wheat and seed into soybeans before 50 per cent of the leaves have fallen off the plants. Most aerial seeded wheat does not emerge immediately. Aerial seeded wheat depends largely on falling soybean leaves to cover the seed and encourage germination.

Where Does Aerial Seeding Apply?

The crop rotation choice by farm operators for aerial seeding wheat is broadcasting seed into standing soybeans. In Michigan, it is often difficult to get wheat drilled after soybeans because of wet soil conditions and the harvest demands of maturing crops. Limited experience after solid drilled and direct cut dry beans and corn suggests these crops may also be crop rotation alternatives. Aerial seeding of wheat adds diversity to the crop rotation.

Where to Get More Assistance:

Additional local assistance may be obtained from the local office of a Michigan Conservation District or the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office at:

3. Wheat following corn is not recommended due to disease such as *Fusarium* associated with the corn residue on the soil surface.

Other Considerations

A number of environmental effects will occur with aerial seeded wheat. A consideration of these effects for incorporation of companion planning elements to achieve an ecosystem-wide conservation plan for the area in which the wheat is established. Effects which may be considered include: water erosion, wind erosion (calculated), soil condition: tilth, crusting infiltration, organic, soil compaction reduction, pesticides in surface water, nitrate-N leaving field, nitrate-N in surface water, total phosphorus leaving field, total phosphorus in surface water, nutrients and organics in surface water, suspended sediment/turbid surface water, air quality wildlife habitat, reduced labor, farm cash flow, etc.

Maintenance

Evaluate the final stand after tillering in the spring by determining the number of plants per foot or, if large areas have been winter killed, use the remaining wheat as a cover crop and no-till, or till and plant another crop.

For More Information

Additional information about aerial seeded wheat may be obtained from the world wide web: (<http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov>). Also see FOTG Conservation Standard Conservation Crop Rotation 328

This Conservation Information Sheet

Prepared By:

Jerry Grigar, Jr State Agronomist USDA NRCS (MI)

Technical Review By: Dr. Jerry Lemunyon

USDA NRCS Grazing Lands Institute (TX)

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