

Instructions

Cover Crop Design Worksheet

NE-CPA-7

Instructions for use of NE-CPA-7

Instructions for the Nebraska Cover Crop Design Jobsheet

Cover Crop Design Worksheet

The sheet is set up to enter data required for documentation or design in the yellow-colored cells. Blue colored cells are for optional documentation that may be helpful to report or track data.

The sheet is protected and includes some choice lists, look up functions and calculations to assist the planner in designing a successful cover crop planting.

You can move thru the worksheet with the {TAB} key, hitting {ENTER} after data entry or with the mouse by clicking on the cell that you want to work in.

There are a number of help comments noted with the small red triangle in the upper right-hand corner of a cell.

The Design worksheet will print out on two pages, the Cover Crop Design Worksheet and the Cover Crop Certification Worksheet.

You may save the workbook to the producer file as needed. Perform a Save As function so you do not overwrite the workbook.

Producers Objective(s)

This section is for the producer to provide his or her top resource concern(s) to be addressed by use of a cover crop. Usually a cover crop will address more than one resource concern. Have the producer indicate the primary resource concern (with the nu

If the objective is erosion control, include appropriate soil loss estimates (before and after installation of the cover crop). These numbers are entered in Cells E23 and I23.

If the objective is crop protection from abrasion or blow out, select the crop or crop type to be protected in Cell F17. the growing crop soil loss tolerance will be shown in the cell to the right. Note this is the planning soil loss tolerance to be pla

If the objective is increasing soil organic matter content, enter the Soil Conditioning Index prior to and after installation of the cover crop in Cells E24 and I24.

Enter the soil mapunit name and/or symbol.

Planned Cover Crop Mixture and Calculations

In order to get the cover crop species mix design area to work, the planner must enter the acres in cell L8 in the top section. This will populate the acres in this section. The same acres will be applied to each cover crop specie in the seeding mix.

In column B, select the cover crop specie and enter the variety if desired in column C. Then enter the percent of the mix for the specie. The worksheet will calculate the pounds needed and provide additional information for the crop.

April 2008 Repeat for each specie to be included in the mix.

The Total Pounds for the mix is calculated. And based on the planned acres the Pounds per Acre to be seeded is provided. Also the Average Seeding Depth in inches is given. This is a straight average of the recommended seeding depths for each specie.

The recommended seeding rates are for a single species seeding that would be drilled, not broadcast. If broadcasting or spreading the cover crop on the surface and following with light incorporation, most references recommend increasing the seeding rates

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Cover Crop Certification Sheet

Immediately below the Cover Crop Design section, scroll down to find the Certification Sheet. The top section with producer information is automatically populated from the data entered in the Design section.

The person completing the checkout / certification will fill out the necessary blanks in order to document the installation of the practice.

There is space for both the producer and NRCS signatures at the bottom, along with an area for comments or notes.

TABLE 1 Cover Crop - Common Species and Properties

This table provides a lot of information on several common cover crops for use in North Dakota. This list is not all inclusive however, but it is intended to give sufficient guidance to producers and planners to design an effective cover crop system for the

There are two macro buttons available, they are located on the upper left-hand corner.

Sort for Purposes - This will sort the table by the planned purpose indicated on the Design worksheet. This will sort the species list by the rating (i.e., Good to Poor) for the purpose, to aid in the selection of the cover crop species.

Return to Alphabetical Order - Clicking this button will simply return Table 1 back to alphabetical order by species.

TABLE 1A Cover Crop Species - Additional Properties

Table 1A is an extension of Table 1 which lists Veg Zone suitability, seeding rates, planting dates, crop type and winter hardiness.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Cover Crop, Code 340:

<http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE340.pdf>