



# Multi-Species Cover Crop

## Vermont Conservation Practice Job Sheet

340



### SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following page(s) of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the Cover Crop 340 practice standard found in the Vermont NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Information contained in this document is considered part of the conservation plan.

Client Name:		Town:	
Farm:		Tract:	
Designed By:		Date:	
Total Acres:		Hardiness Zone:	

### Purpose: *Check all that apply*

Reduce erosion from wind and water	Promote biological nitrogen fixation and reduce energy use
Increase soil organic matter	Increase biodiversity
Manage excess nutrients in the soil profile	Weed suppression
Manage soil moisture	Soil moisture management
Minimize and reduce soil compaction	Reduce particulate emissions to atmosphere

### GENERAL CRITERIA:

- Plant species, seedbed preparation, seeding rates, seeding dates, seeding depths, and planting methods will be consistent with approved local criteria and site conditions. Cereal grains should be planted approximately one inch deep and small seeds should be planted one quarter to one half inch deep. See Specification Guide Sheet – Cover Crop (340) Table 1c.
- The species selected will be compatible with the nutrient management and pest management provisions of the plan, if applicable.
- Cover crops will be terminated by harvest, frost, mowing, tillage, roller-crimper and/or herbicides in preparation for the following crop.
- If herbicides are to be used with cover crops, they shall be compatible with the following scheduled crop.
- Cover crop residue will not be burned.

**Date of Seeding:** Cover crops are typically sown as soon as possible after crop harvest but no later than Oct. 1 for most of the state. Plant Hardiness Zone 5b can be planted up to 5 days later. See Figure 1 of the Cover Crop Specification Guide Sheet. Some of the most successful cover crops are 'inter-seeded'; they are sown at the same time or immediately following the last cultivation of row crops. See Cover Crop Specification Guide Sheet Table 1c for specifics on seeding dates. Contact the VT NRCS Agronomist for further guidance.

**Fertilization:** Cover crops usually follow fertilized crops and often require no additional fertilization. Applied fertilizers, when used, will be applied according to a current soil test and/or approved nutrient management plan, or organic farm operation plan.

**Time and Manner of Incorporation of Cover Crop:** Cover crops shall be left on the surface over winter. They are generally worked into the soil the following year or killed and left on the surface to provide protective residue. Green manure crops generally will be incorporated into the soil in the spring following seeding, usually when top growth reaches 8 to 18 inches in height.

*Note: Selection lists available in the following tables are for the user's convenience. Custom entries can be made. Cover Crop Mixes 1-9 can be found in Table 1c of the Specification Guide Sheet – Cover Crop (340).*



## Cover Crop – Job Sheet

### Cover Crop – Seeding and Management:

Field #	Acres	Cover Crop Species Mix	Seeding Rate per Acre	Planned Seeding Date	Seeding Method	Termination Date or Stage	Termination Method

### Total Quantity of Cover Crop Seed Required:

### OPERATION / MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE:

- Control growth of the cover crop to reduce competition from volunteer plants and shading.
- Control weeds in the cover crop by mowing, herbicide application, or approved methods of organic production.
- Evaluate the cover crop to determine if the cover crop is meeting the planned purpose(s). If the cover crop is not meeting the purpose(s), adjust management, change the species of cover crop, or choose a different technology.
- Establish the cover crop within the stated time period and maintain until the stated time/growth stage.

A map(s) showing all fields planned for cover crop is attached.

Cover Crop Specifications are attached.

For additional information regarding cover crop establishment, management and termination, refer to the attached Cover Crop Specifications.

If you have questions about this planned **Cover Crop** practice contact:

Name:	Tel:	Email:	
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