

# Cover Crop Conservation Practice Job Sheet Practice Code 340

## DEFINITION

Grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover and conservation purposes.

<b>Owner/Client:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Farm #:</b>	<b>Tract#:</b>
<b>Planned By:</b>	

## PURPOSES (Check all that apply)

Reduce erosion from wind and water  
Increase soil organic matter  
Manage excess nutrients in the soil profile  
Promote biological nitrogen fixation

Increase biodiversity  
Weed suppression  
Provide supplemental forage  
Soil moisture management



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### Specifications:

Cover crops will be established after the following crops.

Field	After the following crops

### Seeding and Management

Field	Species	Seed Rate lb./ac	Seeding Time	Method of Seeding: D=Drill B=Broadcast A=Aerial	Date or Stage to till or kill Cover Crop	Termination Method: H=Herbicide T=Tillage N=Natural Death or Winter Kill

### Operation and Management:

The cover crop should be terminated as late as feasible to maximize plant growth and residual nutrient accumulation, while allowing sufficient time for the cover crop to decompose, release nutrients, and recharge soil moisture.

Acceptable benefits, for most purposes, are usually accomplished when the plant density is at least 25 stems per foot, the combined canopy and surface cover is at least 60 percent, and the above ground (dry weight) biomass production is at least 2700 lb./acre.

The specific *Rhizobia* bacteria will either be present in the soil or the seed will be inoculated at the time of planting legumes.

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