



Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT20 –High residue cover crop for weed suppression and soil health

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

For this enhancement cover crops must be grown during all the non-crop production periods in an annual crop rotation including any fallow periods in the crop rotation.

Acceptable cover crops for this enhancement include:

Barley; Buckwheat; Cowpea; White clover; Pearl millet; Mustard; Radish; Red clover; Cereal rye; Annual or Italian ryegrass; Any Sorghum; Sudangrass or Sudan/Sorghum hybrids; Triticale; Turnip; and Wheat.

Cover Crop Requirements

- Cover crops cannot be mechanically harvested. Grazing is allowed after physiological maturity of the cover crop or after the first killing frost.
- Cover crops must follow planting dates, seeding rates, method of planting and other requirements in Conservation Practice Standard [340, Cover Crop](#). Specifications will be provided on the [Cover Crop Worksheet \(NE-CPA-7\)](#).
- Cover crops which winter kill must be planted at least 8 weeks prior to the average date of the first killing frost.
- Cover crop mixes must include a warm season or cool season grass and have a carbon nitrogen ratio greater than 30 prior to termination (late vegetative, early reproductive stage).
- Cover crops which follow fall harvested crops must include a winter annual small grain such as rye, wheat or triticale.

