



340 - COVER CROP IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Name:	Farm No./Tract No.:
Address:	Field Number(s):
Assisted by:	Financial Assistance Program:
Date:	Contract Number:

Practice Purpose(s) (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce erosion from wind and water. | <input type="checkbox"/> Suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content. | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve soil moisture use efficiency. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients. | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimize soil compaction. |

Associated Practices

This practice may be applied alone or in combination with other supporting Delaware conservation practice standards.

- ☐ The following practices are needed, and have been or will be implemented: (check all that apply)
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Crop Rotation (328) | <input type="checkbox"/> Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Pest Management (595) | <input type="checkbox"/> Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Management (590) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other practices (specify): |
- ☐ No associated practices are needed.

Practice Specifications

Cover Crop Layout

- ☐ Practice location(s) is/are shown on the conservation plan map.

Planting and Management Specifications

This practice must be implemented according to NRCS standards and specifications and these Implementation Requirements (IR). **Note: Financial assistance programs, such as EQIP and CSP, may have specific requirements for cover crops. Refer to program guidance for more information.**

Fertilization:

- No manure can be applied to establish the cover crop. In situations where there is limited available N due to excessive rainfall or high yields utilizing irrigation, 20 to 30 lbs. of starter N may be applied when approved by a nutrient management consultant. No winter application of commercial fertilizer or manure is allowed.
- Spring application of manure on fall cover crops can resume **after March 1st**.

Terminating Cover Crops:

- Terminate seasonal cover crops by frost, mowing, cutting, rolling/crimping, tillage, and/or herbicides in preparation for the next crop. Herbicides used with cover crops must be compatible with the following crop. Cover crops cannot be harvested for seed.
- Summer cover crops can be terminated by frost, tillage, or herbicides. Green chop for on-farm use is allowed as a termination method. Summer cover crops cannot be terminated earlier than 60 days after establishment.
- Crops cannot be terminated until **after March 15th**. Exception: If planting early crops such as spring peas, the cover crop can be terminated **after March 1st**.
- To meet crop insurance requirements for a following crop on non-irrigated cropland, terminate the cover crop at, or within 5 days after, planting the following crop, but before crop emergence.

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Planting and Management Specifications (continued)							
Use the following table to document cover crops as planned and applied. Document any changes to what was planned with pen and ink. Producers should contact NRCS for approval <u>before</u> making any changes, especially when receiving financial assistance for this practice.							
Tract and Field No(s).	Acres	Species and Seeding Method	Seeding Rate (lbs/ac)	Seeding Dates	Starter N Applied (Y/N) and Rate (lbs/ac)	Termination Method	Termination Date

Operation and Maintenance (check all that apply)
<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish the cover crop within the stated time period and maintain until the stated time/growth stage. Evaluate the cover crop to determine if it is meeting the planned purpose(s). If the cover crop is not meeting the purpose(s), adjust the management, change the species of cover crop, or choose a different technology. </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Control weeds as needed by mowing or by spraying with an appropriate herbicide. Noxious weeds must be controlled as required by state law. </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> If forage use is desired, green-chop the cover crop in the late boot to early head stages when optimal nutritional content and yield is available. Multiple cuttings or grazing of cover crop is not allowed. </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Unless the cover crop will be used for supplemental forage, terminate the cover crop at or within 5 days after planting the following crop, but before crop emergence. This timing of the kill date permits maximum growth and uptake of residual nutrients by the cover crop. </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable uses (e.g., green manure crop, green-chop) and time of year or frequency of use restrictions, if any (list): </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> Note: Financial assistance programs, such as EQIP and CSP, may have specific requirements for cover crops. Refer to program guidance for more information. </div>
Additional Recommendations/Notes:

**340 - COVER CROP
IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Plan Approval		
Certified Planner Signature	Title	Date
Plan Received and Accepted		
Client Signature	Date	
Certification of Practice Completion		
This Cover Crop Practice has been implemented and meets the requirements of Delaware NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 340. Any changes to the planned practice are noted in Practice Specifications.		
Certified Planner Signature	Title	Date