

Winter Soil Builder & Spring Management Mixes

The **Winter Soil Builder** (high-biomass) and **Spring Management Mixes** (low-biomass) were developed to follow silage corn, but they are equally well suited for early-fall vegetable fields. The **high-biomass mix** will provide higher levels of living biomass in the spring for no-till planting and/or for farmers looking to build soil organic matter. The **low-biomass mix** will have less vigorous spring growth and should be easier to terminate in the spring using a chisel plow or disc harrow.

- Prevent erosion
- Increase soil organic matter
- Reduce compaction
- Capture excess nutrients
- Fix nitrogen for crop growth (legumes)

The mixes provide rapid and dense fall cover, including multiple grasses and broadleaf species (brassicas and legumes). **Plant the cover crop immediately after silage corn harvest.** Both mixes rely on early silage corn harvest and immediate seeding (mid-September) for adequate cover crop growth.

The trial will test the viability of the seed mix and several new species across the state. To ensure the trial is valuable, we ask the following:

- **PLANT ON TIME.** The target seeding date is September 15th
- **ENSURE GOOD SEED TO SOIL CONTACT.** Plant $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch deep. Please either drill the seed or prepare a seedbed using a disc harrow, then broadcast the seed and lightly disc to incorporate.
- **PLANT AT THE RECOMMENDED RATE.** Seed at 75 lbs/acre. A part of the trial is to test the effectiveness of the recommended seed rate. Do what you can to seed at the correct rate.
- **TAKE PICTURES.** Please document the growth of the cover crop with photos. If you don't have a camera, let us know and we're happy and take photos for you.

Winter Soil Builder (high-biomass)			
Cover Type	Species	lbs/ac	% of Mix
Brassicas	Dwarf Essex Rape	0.8	1.1%
Clovers	Crimson Clover	6.2	8.2%
Cool Season Legumes	Hairy Vetch	5.0	6.7%
Cool Season Grasses - Grains	Winter Rye	31.5	42.0%
Cool Season Grasses - Grains	Winter Barley	31.5	42.0%
		75.0	100.0%

Spring Management Mixes (low-biomass)			
Cover Type	Species	lbs/ac	% of Mix
Brassicas	Hybrid Turnip	1.5	2.0%
Clovers	Crimson Clover	6.5	8.6%
Cool Season Legumes	Hairy Vetch	5.3	7.1%
Cool Season Grasses - Grains	Winter Wheat	33.3	44.4%
Cool Season Grasses - Grains	Forage Oats	28.5	38.0%
		75.0	100.0%

Please contact us with any questions or status updates:

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