

Cover Crop Mix Questionnaire

The New Hampshire Cover Crop Seed Mix Trials that began in 2017 might be coming to an end. But we still want to help farmers plant cover crops!

Your answers to these questions will help determine what cover crop programs and opportunities will be available to NH farmers in 2020. We greatly appreciate your input. Thank you very much, from the New Hampshire Soil Health Partnership.

Your Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Town: _____

Email Address and/or Phone Number: _____

Did you receive free bags of cover crop seed mix through the NH Cover Crop Seed Mix Trials?

- Yes
- No

In the fields where you plant cover crops, what are the cash crops? Include the free NH trial mixes, and other cover crop seed you buy on your own.

- Silage Corn
- Sweet Corn
- Pumpkins or Squash
- Mixed Vegetables
- Strawberries
- Other: _____

Which NH Cover Crop Trial Mix(es) did you plant?

- Summer Soil Builder (plant in June)
- Grazing Mix
- Veggie N-Boost (plant in July/August)
- Winter Soil Builder/High Biomass Mix, for following silage corn (plant in September)
- Spring Management/ Low Biomass Mix, for following silage corn (plant in September)

Next year, would you purchase mixes similar to the ones you received through this program, and how much would you be willing to spend?

- Up to \$30 per acre
- Up to \$40 per acre
- Up to \$50 per acre
- Up to \$60 per acre
- Over \$60 per acre
- No, I would not purchase a similar mix, but I would purchase cover crop seed with only 1-2 species
- No, I would not purchase a similar mix, or any other cover crop seed
- Other: _____

Would you purchase a similar cover crop seed mix through a "group buying" program, to reduce the price? It may require driving to another farm in New Hampshire to pick up the seed.

- Yes
- No

If you were to purchase cover crop seed mix in 2020, how many acres would it be for, and what crops? (e.g., "50 acres of silage corn, 3 acres of veggies"):

Would you be interested in applying to a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service financial assistance program, to offset the cost of planting a cover crop? Requires a three year commitment and covers about 75% of the costs if approved.

- Yes
- No

What are the challenges that affect your ability to plant cover crops?

It's difficult to time the planting of the cover crop seed early enough in the season without interfering with the cash crop.

- It's difficult to terminate the cover crop in the spring
- Not enough time/ labor available
- Don't have the right equipment to plant the cover crop
- Don't have the right equipment to terminate the cover crop
- Cost of seed
- There are no challenges
- Other: _____

What benefits do you look for in a cover crop seed mix?

- Adding organic matter to the soil
- Adding nitrogen to the soil
- Reducing erosion
- Retaining moisture and lowering soil temperature
- Controlling weeds
- Increasing biodiversity
- Looks nice
- Supporting beneficial insects and soil biota
- Other: _____

ORGANIC GROWERS: Have you experienced any difficulties sourcing organic cover crop seed? Do you have the information and equipment you need to terminate cover crops without herbicide? Please share any comments or suggestions you have relating to the challenges of organic cover crops.

We'd love to hear any other comments on the cover crop seed mix trials. Did you learn anything or change your management as a result of trying new diverse mixes? Do you have any suggestions for specific mixes, group buying programs, or financial assistance programs that should be made available to New Hampshire farmers?

Thank you very much! Your input is extremely valuable to us.

Please return this survey to:

Alena Warren
Strafford County Conservation District
264 County Farm Road
Dover, NH 03820

Or: NHSoilHealth@gmail.com

Or: Your local Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

More information about soil health programs for New Hampshire farms online at:
NHSoilHealth.org