In-Season Cover Crop Establishment into Corn Grain or Silage in Northern Wisconsin

- Species are often planted in a mix; adjust seeding rates accordingly
- Check herbicide program before interseeding into corn; residual herbicides can injure cover crops
- Aerial or other broadcast seeding is an option for earlier establishment into standing corn with some risk; corn should be senesced from the ground to the ear with harvest planned within two weeks; dry conditions after seeding, presence of slugs and sandy soils will limit success
- Broadcast seeding is often more successful in finer textured soils and when timed with an upcoming rainfall event

INTERSEEDING (EARLY SEASON)

Corn growth stage: V3 - V8

DRILL[1]

- red clover — 6-12 lb/A
- winter rye — 40-60 lb/A
- annual ryegrass — 20-40 lb/A
- radish in a mix[3] — 1-3 lb/A

BROADCAST

- red clover — 6-12 lb/A
- winter rye — 40-60 lb/A

OR

OVERSEEDING (LATE SEASON)

Corn growth stage: R5 - harvest maturity (grain)

AERIAL OR HIGH CLEARANCE[2]

GRAIN

50% dry down, R7 growth stage

- winter rye — 60-90 lb/A

SILAGE

50% dry down, 2 weeks before harvest

- winter rye — 60-90 lb/A

[1] Drills can be modified for interseeding into standing corn crop
Watch our video at https://youtu.be/gMKx2NeBmT4

[2] Aerial application with airplane or high clearance equipment for broadcasting seed

[3] Brassica species should be planted as a small percentage of a mix, as they provide little biomass and decompose quickly

October 2019

Cover Crop Selection

Following Corn Grain or Silage in Northern Wisconsin

- Seeding rates are for drill establishment; broadcast rates should be increased 20-30%
- Cover crop seeding rates should be adjusted for the goal of the cover crop (for example: erosion reduction, nitrogen scavenging, soil building)
- Plant all species listed below with adequate fertility by Sept 1st for best fall cover and spring forage yields (~1-2 TDM/A)
- Spring cereal grains (oats, barley) planted after October 1st will achieve minimal growth before frost
- Winter cereal grains (rye, triticale) planted in mid-October or later will have minimal fall growth but with adequate snow cover, typically over-winter providing some spring cover
- If harvesting the cover crop as forage, review planting interval restrictions for previous herbicides used (at least two growing seasons)

COVER CROP OR FORAGE

Plant cover crop on or before

SEPT 1st		OCT 1st	OCT 15st
oats	spring barley	winter triticale	winter rye
30-60 lb/A	50-75 lb/A	40-60 lb/A	40-60 lb/A

Plant forage on or before

SEPT 15st	OCT 1st
winter triticale	winter rye
90-110 lb/A	90-110 lb/A

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npm@hort.wisc.edu
web: ipcm.wisc.edu