

Horticulture

Research Protocols

Living Mulch in Cucumbers

Objectives: 1. To establish feasibility of New Zealand white clover as a living mulch cover crop between rows of cucumber; 2. Determine whether inclusion of these living mulches can be done without significant yield loss.

Farmer-cooperator will:

- **Take photos** throughout the project
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions
- **Spring 2016**, establish clover in treatment plots of a randomized field design with three replications.
- **Spring 2016**, transplant cucumbers to all plots.
- **Spring 2016**, two weeks after first trial begins, start second succession of the trial.
- **Summer 2016**, harvest cucumbers as they mature, keeping count, yield and cull records in the provided Excel workbook.
- **Summer 2016**, collect data on clover effectiveness for ground cover and weed control in the provided Excel workbook.
- **Summer 2016**, make notes about visibility of cucumbers in living cover.
- Turn in all data by October 2016

Practical Farmers of Iowa will:

- *Help set up protocol including Excel workbook for data entry, provide support as needed.*
- *Analyze data and publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website, and potentially other outlets.*
- *Provide \$550 cooperator payment at conclusion of project year.*



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The terms of this Research Protocols document are subject to the terms of the individual Research Cooperator's Memorandum of Understanding agreement with PFI. To the extent these terms may differ or conflict, the Memorandum of Understanding shall control.