

Field Crops Research Protocols

Terminating Cover Crops After Seeding Soybeans

Objective: Determine if a cover crop can be terminated 2-4 weeks after seeding soybeans without reducing soybean yields but possibly reducing herbicide use.

Farmer-cooperator will:

- Take photos throughout the project and keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- **Fall 2017**, seed cover crop.
- **Spring 2018**, establish at least 4 replications as shown in the diagram below.
 - **Terminate cover crop near the time of soybean seeding**
 - **Terminate cover crop 2-4 weeks after time of soybean seeding**
- Strips will be as wide as at least one combine pass and run the length of the field.
- Collect aboveground biomass samples of cover crop from strips just prior to termination.
- Seed soybeans on same date for both treatments.
- **Summer 2018**, take photos of progress.
- **Fall 2018**, harvest soybeans from strips individually.
- Turn in all info and data pertinent to this trial to Practical Farmers of Iowa by the end of the project.



Practical Farmers of Iowa will:

- Help set up monitoring protocol, monitor progress of project and provide support when needed.
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website and potentially other outlets.
- Provide \$550 compensation when yield data is submitted at conclusion of the project in 2018.

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