

These responses are from Trent Sanderson who farms in Illinois.

Herbicide carryover.

Sanderson: I have not had any as of today.

Can you give methods for organic termination of cover crops and weed control besides using winter killed?

Sanderson: Rolling or crimping seems to have good effects on tall crops such as cereal rye. Let it get tall, roll it while planting. The mat leftover by the rye is quite dense.

With the increase in cover crop seed demand are there more concerns with noxious weeds being spread via lower quality seed sources.

Sanderson: I have not had a bad experience yet, nor have I been concerned. If a shortage has come up, there are other alternative cover crops available.

What is the effect of timing of herbicide application on the cover crops? Any general observations?

Sanderson: Outside of good general herbicide practices(temperature, time of day, etc) each cover crop breaks down differently considering its' C:N ratio, and the bio-life activity of soil.

What's your seeding rate for frost seeding red clover?

Sanderson: We use coated & inoculated red clover broadcast at 12lbs/Acre. The only year this did not work was 2012, drought, but it was the best wheat crop we ever raised, 105 bushel per acre.

Please review your rotation - where does red clover come in?

Sanderson: On our highly erodible land, we rotate: corn, soybeans, wheat then frost seed red clover on the winter wheat early spring. We cut the red clover once within that growing season, early fall.

What was your herbicide program for the corn into Triticale?

Sanderson: 25 ounces of Roundup PowerMax. This is tank mixed with 32%; about 40 units worth of nitrogen.

did you leave check strips when interseeding to confirm zero impacts on yield?

Sanderson: Yes. Both planned and unplanned. I plugged once or twice.

How tall is the corn at maturity for the interseeding fields?

Sanderson: No difference compared to corn that was not interseeded. Good question!

Was there a shank on the interseeder or was it just blown on the ground?

Sanderson: There was a deflector at the end of the tube. So just blown on the ground. The cover crop species selected did not require more than ½" of seed depth.

Any problem with neighbors around field due to decomposition smell (odors) with Radish?

Sanderson: Rural community, no issues.

What starter rate for the corn that was strip-tilled into failed wheat?

Sanderson: Although you could see starter on the planter, we were carrying it over to the next field. No starter was applied to the corn that was strip-tilled into failed wheat.

What was the seeding rate for Red Clover in the frost seeding into wheat?

Sanderson: 12lbs./A coated & inoculated seed.

How did you frost seed your red clover?

Sanderson: Pull type broadcast seeder. Moving forward, we will use the interseeder we built.

What was the success rate between aerial applications and your Gandy applications?

Sanderson: Definitely more consistency between application passes. Aerial seeding has always seemed to be challenged to maintain consistency pass-to-pass. Also, we had 6-8" more growth because of planting date, which we value because we don't have that much opportunity in the fall for growth, therefore promoting winter survivability.

How much organic matter increase after adopting cover crop in field management planning?

Sanderson: To date, no measurable increase in relation to just cover crops. We are studying this in fields that we practice just no till.

Trent-- what herbicides work best so that residual problems do not hurt brassicas and other cover crops? How does RMA guidelines impact your steps?

Sanderson: EXCELLENT QUESTION!!! We only use Roundup PowerMax on our herbicide passes. We have had reduced weed pressure because of reduced tillage. So, Roundup clears the way, we interseed cover crops and they help choke out any additional weed pressure late in the season. Where we do not interseed, we pay attention to the half-life of other herbicides, and fall seed accordingly. Typically, we get sufficient rainfall to help wash some of this residual away. This year in fact, we goofed up and put atrazine down where I planned to interseed. 17" of June rainfall came, I interseeded anyway, and it did not seem to be behind other fields. Interesting right? As far as crop insurance, we use the GRIP or ARC program. This bases yields off of county performance, so we have the ability to interseed without approval. It works for us.

How much N saved for following crop after cover crop termination in spring?

Sanderson: We are running trials today to determine a safe reduction in nitrogen application. We are most interested in a healthy soil, which will provide us with the most economic return long term. Interseeding of cover crops like hairy vetch is something we are playing with, since it has the capacity to provide 100% of our nitrogen requirements.

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