

Prevent Plant

Due to the excessive rain and saturated soils that many farmers are experiencing, our typical crops are not getting planted, leaving farmers to develop alternative planting plans. Many farmers are taking prevented planting designation on acres that they could not get planted. After taking prevent plant, what do you do with these fields?



Here are some key factors to consider for prevented planting:

Do Something

- Leaving ground fallow is not a great option. Fallow ground has a greater risk of soil erosion and has a higher likelihood of nutrient leaching. Loss of nitrates, sulfates and other nutrients is not good for the environment, especially sensitive watersheds, but you are also losing important nutrients that could be used by a following crop.
- Bare ground encourages **fallow syndrome**. This occurs when there is no plant growth in an area for an extended period of time. We see a reduction of active mycorrhizae in fallow ground as the mycorrhizae rely upon actively growing roots to survive. Corn and small grains tend to be more affected by fallow syndrome, but it can also happen in soybean stands.
- Planting an annual crop on prevented planting acres or drowned-out spots can help maintain levels of mycorrhizae in the soil. An annual crop provides multiple benefits to the soil instead of allowing weed populations to thrive and cause future management issues.

Understand the Guidelines

- Please note: under prevented planting provisions a cover crop or emergency forage **CANNOT** be grazed or harvested for forage until after November 1 and cannot ever be harvested for grain without reduction to prevent plant coverage payment. Dates may vary depending on your state or region. Please check with your local state or county FSA office for further information on grazing restrictions.

UPDATE

As of June 20, 2019 the U.S. Department of Agriculture adjusted the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November 1 to September 1.

Think About Herbicide Restrictions

- Consider herbicides already applied on the acres not yet planted. In many cases, cover crops and other non-traditional crops are not listed on the herbicide label. Land grant universities are helping to determine what options farmers have in the case of prevent plant or other cropping systems with quick seeding windows.
- If a cover crop is being planted for a non-forage goal (with no harvest), the grower assumes the risk if the cover crop is not listed on the label. However, if that cover crop will be harvested as forage, either mechanically or by livestock, then rotational restrictions on the label must be followed.



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Keep Weeds Under Control

- One benefit of cover crops is the ability to suppress weeds. Cover crops suppress weeds by canoping the ground and providing competition for seedlings. Cover crops are good for providing long-lasting weed control and serving as another mode of action. Start with a clean field, then plant cover crop species that can outcompete the weed species you are targeting.

Use Mixes

- Using cover crop mixes allows for diversity and the opportunity to spread risk. Mixes also allow for reduced weather risks, help break pest cycles and prevent erosion that some monoculture species are vulnerable to. Added benefits include nitrogen fixing and improved soil health as well.

Other Considerations

- When seeding certain species in late spring/early summer, expect a few more management challenges such as stand establishment, plants setting seed, biomass control, pest control, maintaining forage quality, etc.

Action Plan

Planting

- The best time to start planting your cover crops for prevent planting is sometime in mid-July. Most of the cover crops are annuals and if you plant them too early they are more prone to bolting or heading out. After mid-July the risk of bolting is minimized, and annuals will no longer have enough time to produce viable seeds if left untouched.

Weed Control

- Most prevent plant areas will be weedy prior to planting. There are two ways to control these weeds to ensure that your cover crop is successful. They are:
 1. Do a tillage pass first then plant your cover crop.
 2. Do a burndown pass prior to tillage and planting. Make sure to understand and follow all label plant back restrictions.

Cover Crop Selection

- Each cover crop provides unique benefits to the soil, so make sure to choose a product that is good for you. You can create your own mix or purchase a recommended cover crop mix. If you want to create your own mix the NRCS has a [Cover Crop Excel Worksheet](#) which can help you tailor the mix to your needs. Legend Seeds carries a variety of cover crops and cover crop mixes from [La Crosse Seeds](#). Visit our [Specialty Products](#) page to learn more. Depending on what you are using the crop for (i.e. just a cover crop or for an emergence forage) you will need to match the cover crop to your goal.

Additional Resources

- Make sure to check with your local NRCS field office. There are programs available to help with prevented planting and cover crops.

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Below are our recommendations for cover crop mixes:



SF 125 N-HANCER

TILLAGE RADISH* + SPRING OATS + FIXATION BALANSA CLOVER + SPRING PEAS + CRIMSON CLOVER

SEEDING RATE: 30 - 40 LBS/ACRE (HEAVIER RATE LATER IN PLANTING WINDOW)
40 - 50 LBS/ACRE FOR FORAGE

- Designed as a nitrogen booster in front of grass cash crops; decreased spring management needed
- Oats work as a carrier, but also keep nitrogen from leaching or leaving the system
- Heavy legume mix will work in grazing environments, supplying high protein and digestibility
- Nitrogen production will be widely varied, based on planting date, climate, spring termination date, etc.

Termination: In most environments, only the clovers will demand spring control. Both crimson and balansa clovers can be successfully terminated with glyphosate and 2,4-D. Radish will terminate with multiple nights in the teens. If radishes survive, glyphosate and 2,4-D provide effective control.

Considerations: Early planting is the goal with SF 125. More biomass equals greater nitrogen contribution. Because of peas' larger seed size, broadcast or aerial applications are not recommended.




PLANTING WINDOW

1. NO LATER THAN AUGUST 30
2. NO LATER THAN AUGUST 20
3. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1
4. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10
5. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 20



BENEFITS

COMPACTION ALLEVIATION	4
WEED SUPPRESSION	4
BIOMASS PRODUCTION	4
EROSION CONTROL	5
DISEASE/PEST CONTROL	2
POLLINATOR/BENEFICIALS	3
P & N CYCLING	4
EASE OF ESTABLISHMENT	4





SF 142 CLASSIC

TILLAGE RADISH* + COATED CRIMSON CLOVER

SEEDING RATE: 12 - 15 LBS/ACRE (HEAVIER RATE LATER IN PLANTING WINDOW)
15 - 20 LBS/ACRE FOR FORAGE

- Ideal for acres going to corn or other grass crops; research shows positive results in V3 - V6 corn interseeding
- Simple mix to use on acres where excess moisture can be an issue, or prevent plant acres, etc.
- Low seeding rates work well in aerial seedings and where application options are limited

Termination: Radish will terminate with multiple nights in the teens. If radishes survive, glyphosate and 2,4-D offer an effective control method. If crimson clover overwinters, control with glyphosate and 2,4-D.

Considerations: When seeded early in summer/fall, consider additional grasses to help compete with the quick radish growth. Heavy crimson clover may invite voles.




PLANTING WINDOW

1. NO LATER THAN AUGUST 20
2. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1
3. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 20
4. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 20
5. NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1



BENEFITS

COMPACTION ALLEVIATION	4
WEED SUPPRESSION	3
BIOMASS PRODUCTION	3
EROSION CONTROL	3
DISEASE/PEST CONTROL	3
POLLINATOR/BENEFICIALS	3
P & N CYCLING	4
EASE OF ESTABLISHMENT	4



AGRONOMY BULLETIN



SF 150 FIELD FIT
TILLAGE RADISH* + SPRING OATS

SEEDING RATE: 30 - 35 LBS./ACRE (HEAVIER RATE LATER IN PLANTING WINDOW)
40 - 50 LBS./ACRE FOR FORAGE

- Very simple cover crop mix; will completely winterkill in many northern climates
- If sequestering leftover nutrients is the goal, this is the mix to use

Termination: Radish will terminate with multiple rights in the teens, if radish overwinters, glyphosate and 2,4-D provide effective control.

Considerations: Because of its large percentage of oats, there is minimal lasting residue with SF 150. If grazing, introduce SF 150 slowly and don't allow brassicas to ever make up more than 1/3 of livestock's diet.



COMPACTION ALLEVIATION WEED SUPPRESSION SOIL SEQUESTRATION





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BENEFITS

COMPACTION ALLEVIATION	5
WEED SUPPRESSION	5
BIOASS PRODUCTION	4
EROSION CONTROL	3
DISEASE/ PEST CONTROL	3
POLLINATOR/BENEFICIALS	2
P & K CYCLING	3
EASE OF ESTABLISHMENT	5

Summary

Once you have decided on a cover crop choice, approach this decision armed with good information. Selecting the right cover crops will help you reach your goals. Remember to watch insurance dates and restrictions.

Resources

Soil First Management Guide 7th Edition:

https://3qbjdyotwye2jtiieg16p2v1f-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CATALOG-SF_Soil-First-Management-Guide-7th-Ed_8.5x11in_06112018-WEB.pdf

SF 125 N-Hancer Tech Sheet:

https://3qbjdyotwye2jtiieg16p2v1f-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/TECH-SHEET-SF_125-N-Hancer_8.5x11in_06142018.pdf

SF 142 Classic:

https://3qbjdyotwye2jtiieg16p2v1f-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/TECH-SHEET-SF_142-Classic_8.5x11in_06142018.pdf

SF 150 Field Fit:

https://3qbjdyotwye2jtiieg16p2v1f-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/TECH-SHEET-SF_150-Field-Fit_8.5x11in_06142018.pdf

NRCS South Dakota website:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/sd/technical/?cid=nrcs141p2_036589

NRCS Cover Crop Excel Worksheet (can be found under Additional Resources tab):

<https://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/the-five-principles-of-soil-health/>

Soil First: APPLYING FOR NRCS COST SHARE:

https://3qbjdyotwye2jtiieg16p2v1f-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/LITERATURE-SF_Applying-for-NRCS-Cost-Share.pdf

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