

## COVER CROP OPTIONS FOR PROCESSING VEGETABLES

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Cover crops are increasingly recognized for their multiple agronomic benefits, including improving soil quality and health, enhancing soil fertility, and preventing erosion. Choosing cover crops for a particular farming system requires consideration of several factors, including planting window, termination time and strategy, desired functionality (weed suppression, erosion prevention, nitrogen credits), and potential disease and insect interactions. Resources exist to assist farmers in the selection of appropriate cover crops for their specific system and crop rotations. The Midwest Cover Crop Council has created one of the most extensive sources of information regarding cover crops for the upper Midwest; comprised of a diverse group of academia, farmers, non-governmental organizations, and state and federal agency representatives, this group works to provide materials on cover crop practices and opportunities, including farmer profiles, webinars, and field days. The information is housed on their website, [www.mccc.msu.edu](http://www.mccc.msu.edu).

The cover crop selector tool, housed on MCCC's website, is a powerful tool that provides farmers information as to cover crop options and agronomic recommendations. Farmers can input their location, cash crop, planting and harvest dates, soil drainage classes, and cover cropping goals, and obtain cover crop recommendations. From this page, farmers can generate information sheets that provide seeding rates, attributes and performance, cultural traits, agronomic advantages and ecosystem services, and potential disadvantages. With this information, farmers can more effectively evaluate cover crop options for their farms.

### References

Midwest Cover Crop Council (MCCC). Cover Crop Decision Tool.  
<http://www.mccc.msu.edu/selectorINTRO.html>

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Table 1. Example information from the MCCC interactive cover crop selector tool, summarizing cover crop options for vegetable crops in Wisconsin

