



WHAT IS THE IDEAL PLANTING WINDOW TO ESTABLISH COVER CROPS AND OBTAIN OPTIMUM CROP GROWTH AND YIELD OF ROTATIONAL CROPS?

INFORMATIONAL SHEET

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UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF COVER CROP PLANTING DATES IN IL ROW CROP PRODUCTION

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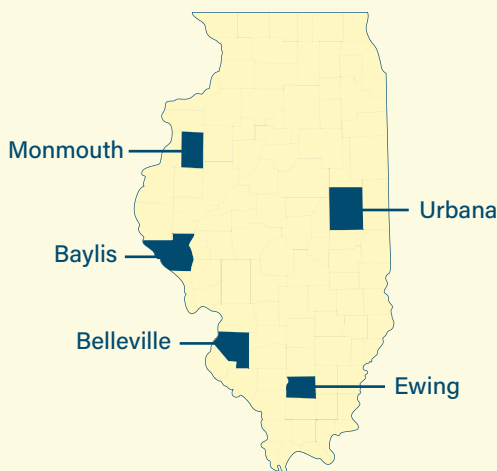
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PROJECT SUMMARY

This project is comparing 1) different cereal rye seeding dates and rates before soybean, and 2) different planting dates of two clover species after soybean harvest and ahead of corn. Farmers will gain better insights into cover crop planting and seeding rate recommendations and best management practices for adding cover crops to their cropping systems.

TRIAL LOCATIONS



WHY THIS RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT

- ❗ Cover crops are an important tool in preserving and increasing soil productivity, stewarding water resources, suppressing weeds and retaining nutrients. However, planting cover crops coincides with the busy harvest season. Also, research to influence best practices for successful cover crops has been limited across the vast Illinois growing environments.
- ❗ The trials will assess optimal planting windows, seeding rates and termination timing. Understanding these variables will influence how to maximize overwintering, biomass production, and rotational crop stand, growth and yield.

HOW THIS RESEARCH BENEFITS THE FARMER

- 🎯 Results of this trial are designed to give farmers more cover crop options in their management toolbox. Researchers will be able to provide best management guidance on a regionalized basis to account for the variability across the state, as well as the impact of the unique weather conditions each season.
- 🎯 Farmers will be equipped with better insights on planting dates and seeding rates, which cover crop species fit best within soybean-corn rotations, and optimum termination timing to maximize biomass production and new crop stand establishment.

View insights from the first year of this project at <https://fieldadvisor.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ILSoyAdvisor-Cover-Crop-Research-Project-Findings-WEB.pdf>



CHECK OUT FIELD ADVISOR!

See updates and learn more about this project, the research team and other projects at FieldAdvisor.org.

Contact the ISA agronomy team: agronomy-team@ilsoy.org.

