Midwest Cover Crops Council

SARE PROJECT ENC17-159

Dr. Eileen Kladivko and Anna Morrow

Online Cover Crop Selector Tool and Training

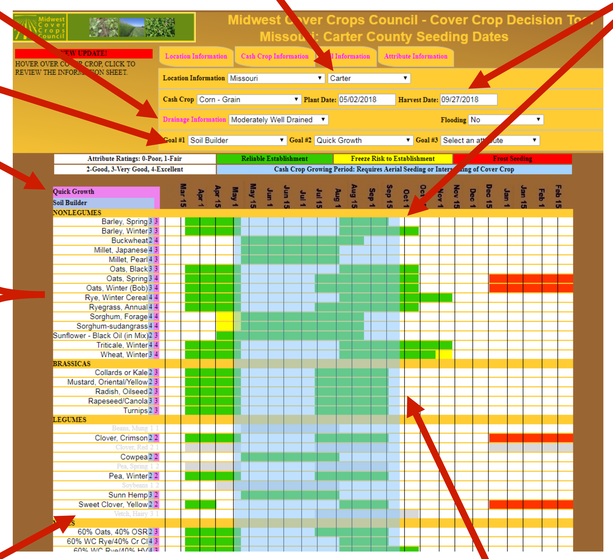
MCCC Cover Crop Selector Tool

Goals: Ranks cover crops for up to 3 attributes (such as Nitrogen Source, Nitrogen Scavenger, Erosion Fighter, etc.)

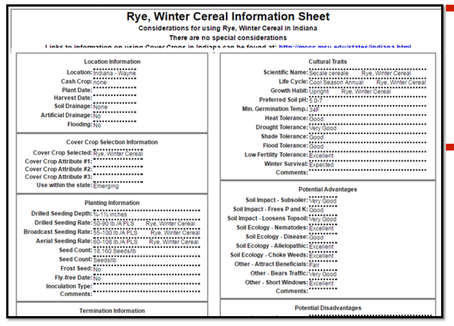
Soil Drainage Information: Eliminates cover crop species based on soil suitability

Location: 30 year local climate data influences seeding date windows for individual counties

Cash Crop: Planting/Harvest dates remind users of timeframe the crop is in the field and whether or not interseeding is necessary (blue box on seeding chart)



Detailed Information Sheets: Generated by clicking cover crop specie name



Cover crop species that don't meet soil drainage class requirements or goals drop off the suggested list

Seeding Windows based on county level climate data
Green - reliable establishment
Yellow – freeze risk to establishment
Red – frost seeding

Online Cover Crop Selector Tool available at mccc.msu.edu

Professional Development

This professional development project will improve cover crop knowledge for cover crop professionals as well as farmers and crop advisors in 8 states. Cover crop professional teams include Extension, University Specialists, NRCS, SWCD, seedsmen, crop advisors, and farmers.

Activities

- Organize statewide cover crop professionals into a team to create or update the MCCC cover crop selector tool for their state
- Cover crop professionals meet in-person with MCCC program manager for team building and to begin discussions for selector tool work
- Information for the selector tool is reached through team consensus during a series of web conferences
- MCCC builds or updates each state's selector tool
- Conservation professionals from that state will be invited to a training on using new MCCC resources

Progress to Date

- Nebraska is currently in progress from another project
- South Dakota team is in place and in the process of making recommendations
- North Dakota team has met in person and will begin discussions soon

North Dakota cover crop experts discuss options to include in the MCCC North Dakota Cover Crop Selector Tool.

MCCC Selector Tool currently available for these states

- Indiana
- Ohio*
- Michigan*
- Illinois*
- Wisconsin*
- Minnesota*
- Iowa*
- Missouri
- Kansas

*States to be updated as part of this project

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