

2014 HEALTHY SOILS MINI GRANT FINAL REPORT

Grant Description

Name of Organization: Guernsey Soil & Water Conservation District

Mailing Address: 9711 East Pike Road Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Telephone Number: (740) 432-5624

Name, Title and Email of the Person Responsible for Overseeing this Project:

Travis Smith
Wildlife/Forestry Specialist
tsmith@guernseycounty.com

Project Title: Cover Crop Display

Project Duration: Ongoing

Project Dates: June 2014- October 2014

Grant Amount: \$650

Total Project Budget: \$783.88 (SEE ATTACHED RECIEPTS)

Additional Sources of Funding (if applicable): Donations Labor, Top Soil, Seed, and Mulch value-\$1200

Remaining Funds: \$0

Description of Outputs and Outcomes: SEE COVER CROP DISPLAY PHOTO

The display consist of an informational kiosk loaded with cover crop information such as seeding rates, times, and depths As well as varieties of cover crop plants, and there particular soil health benefits. The display box is 10'x5' and has a variety of cover crop planted.

Examples of Print Materials

SEE ATTACHED COVER CROP HANDOUTS

Future Plans

The Cover Crop will remain on display ongoing. Attendees of educational and special events will remain the target audience. The display will be maintained by the district with district funds in the future.

Other Comments

We are interested in finding any opportunities to improve how we operate. Your feedback will be considered and is very much appreciated!

Consideration to purchase hard accents up to \$300 dollars for projects that are slated to be ongoing for more than two years continuous.





Buckwheat is a good short season cover crop, reaching maturity in just 70-90 days. Its main benefits are weed suppression through shading and competition. It is a good first crop for rejuvenating over-farmed soils. It also is a good nutrient scavenger. A huge benefit is that it attracts beneficial insect pollinators.

Planting dates:

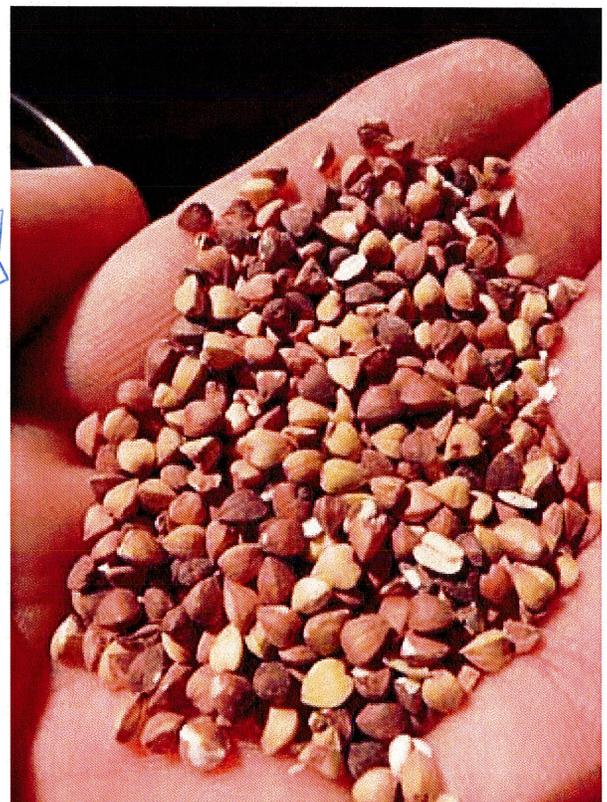
August 1 to September 15

Strengths:

- Extremely rapid growth
- Excellent for short planting windows
- Attracts pollinators
- Excellent weed suppression
- Excellent heat tolerance
- Tolerance of difference soil types and low fertility

Weaknesses:

- Regrowth and volunteer plants can occur
- Sensitive to herbicide residue
- Low shade tolerance
- Low drought tolerance



Buckwheat



Crimson Clover is a winter annual. It has light green leaves covered with soft hairs. It has a taproot accompanied by numerous small fibrous roots. As with all legumes, it provides nitrogen. It is also a great forage and grazing crop.

Planting Dates:

August 1 to September 15



COPY **Crimson Clover**

Strengths:

- Tolerates poorly drained soils
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Good shade tolerance
- Produces 50-150# of nitrogen per acre
- Increases soil moisture holding capacity
- Fair heat and drought tolerance

Weaknesses:

- Not good in aerial applications
- Secondary host to pests such as corn earworm

