

Why Cover Crops?

Cover crops are non-commodity crops either inter-seeded into living cash crops or planted onto bare fields during fallow periods to improve soil quality and nutrients available to plants.

Managed well, cover crops can simultaneously increase farm profitability and environmental performance. Benefits include:

- Soil quality improvements including increased soil organic matter
- Erosion control
- Fertility improvements
- Weed suppression
- Insect control
- Nutrient retention/availability

“Those who fail to plan, plan to fail...”

Cover Crop Management

Before you begin, what are your management goals? N management? Soil retention? Supplemental grazing? Breaking up compaction? A combination? The selection of species and timing of planting and terminating are dependent upon your management goals.

Before you plant, what is your plan for termination? Tillage only? Tillage and herbicide? Grazing then tillage? Using winter killed species? Have a plan A and B for termination before you plant!

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Uses of cover crops...



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Crimson clover and rye used as a nitrogen source and for erosion control



© USDA NRCS Soil Health

Annual rye into corn used to improve water infiltration and to scavenge nitrogen



© USDA NRCS South Dakota

Oilseed (“tillage”) radish used for supplemental forage and to alleviate soil compaction.



COVER CROPS: Directory of Businesses 2013



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Your guide to businesses that supply seed and services to establish and manage cover crops in Illinois

Compiled by:



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COVER CROP SEED, alphabetical by name (Note: Multiple local dealers are present for most companies, see websites for local information)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Advance Cover Crops618/922-7446 (Marion, IL, advancecovercrops.com) | Granite Seed and Erosion Control.....720/496-0600 (Denver, CO, www.graniteseed.com) | Midwest Bio-Ag800/327-6012 (Blue Mounds, WI, www.midwesternbioag.com) |
| American Organic855/945-2449 (Warren, IL, www.american-organic.com) | Gristmill Enterprises, Inc.855/945-2449 (Warren, IL, www.gristmillinc.com) | Midwest Grass and Forage309/255-9503 (Macomb, IL, www.midwestgrass.com) |
| Byron Seeds800/801-3596 (Rockville, IN, http://byronseeds.net) | Gordon Farms Seed Co.217/892-8380 (Rantoul, IL, www.gfseedco.com) | Premium Seed Supply (Clayton, IL)217/894-7054 |
| Brown Seed Sales217/620-9133 (Warrensburg, IL, cdbrow2@gmail.com) | Kelly Seed Company309/674-0368 (Peoria, IL, kellyseed.net) | ProHarvest Seeds866/807-7015 (Ashkum, IL, proharvestseeds.com) |
| Cover Crop Solutions/Tillage Radish800/767-9441 (Robeson, PA, www.covercropsolutions.com) | Kitchen Seed Company, Inc.217/543-3476 (Arthur, IL, sales@kitchenseed.com) | Saddle Butte Ag/Bio Till217/868-5181 (Effingham, IL, www.saddlebutte.com) |
| Chapin Cover Crops, LLC217/473-7361 (Chapin, IL, dean@werries.org) | LaCrosse Forage & Turf Seed LLC800/328-1909 (LaCrosse, WI, www.lftseed.com) | Weaver Seed Supply (Dongola, IL)618/833-4578 |
| Elk Mound Seed Company800/401-7333 (Elk Mound, WI, www.elkmoundseed.com/cover-crop-seed/) | Legacy Seed866/791-6390 (Scandinavia, WI, www.legacyseeds.com) | Welter Seed & Honey Co.1-800-728-8450 (Onslow, IA, www.welterseed.com) |
| F&J Seed Service (Woodstock, IL).....815/338-4029 | Lily Lake Organic Farm (Maple Park, IL).....630/365-2019 | |
| | Martin Seeds, Inc. (Williamsport, IN)765/986-2030 | |



Aerial Applicators/Pilots, alphabetical by county

| Name | County (City) | Contact | Services |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Woodley Aerial Spray | Bureau (Walnut) | 815/379-9300 | Aerial seeding |
| Milhon Air, Inc. | Champaign | 317/831-7464 | Aerial seeding |
| Aerinova Aerial, LLC | Coles (Mattoon) | 217/234-9439 | Aerial seeding |
| Curless Flying Service | Fulton (Astoria) | 309/759-4826 | Aerial seeding, seed supply |
| Zumwalt Aviation | Iroquois (Sheldon) | 815/429-3147 | Seeding & custom herbicide, IL & IN |
| Ag Tech Air | Jo Davies (Stockton) | 815/947-3248 | Aerial seeding |
| Benoit Aerial Spraying | Kankakee (Kankakee) | 815/932-2341 | Aerial seeding |
| R & R Flight Service | LaSalle (Mendota) | 815/538-7717 | Aerial seeding |
| Pontiac Flying Service | Livingston (Pontiac) | 815/842-3738 | Aerial seeding |
| Flying ILLINI Ag Service LLC | Logan (Lincoln) | 937/231-8611 | Aerial seeding |
| Palmer Flying Service | Mason (Manito) | 309/545-2281 | Aerial seeding |
| Jack Holland | McLean | 309/275-4326 | Aerial seeding |
| Schertz Aerial Service, Inc. | McLean (Hudson) | 309/726-1311 | Aerial seeding, seed supply |
| C. Holzwarth Flying Service | Macoupin (Viriden) | 217/735-3592 | Aerial seeding, seed, burndown |
| Killam Flying Service | Macoupin (Carlinville) | 217/556-6220 | Aerial seeding, burndown |
| Lindell Aerial Ag Service | Mercer (Aledo) | 309/582-5445 | Aerial seeding |
| Hendrickson Flying Service | Ogle (Rochelle) | 815/384-5151 | Aerial seeding |
| Reynolds Aerial Service LLC | Piatt (Mansfield) | 217/841-6611 | Aerial seeding |
| Brian Agricultural Aviation | Tazewell (Pekin) | 309/346-3348 | Aerial seeding |
| Mills Ag Service | Vermilion (Potomac) | 217/286-3300 | Aerial seeding, burndown |
| Aero Crop Services, LLC | Vermilion (Bismarck) | 217/446-5293 | Aerial seeding |
| Franks Flying Service | Whiteside (Morrison) | 815/778-3336 | Aerial seeding |

OTHER SERVICES

Seeding:

Highboy Rigs, Foosland, 217/784-8550

“Full Service” and consultation:

Check with your local Co-op or Elevator—many are now offering full cover crop services! Check with your NRCS and SWCD office for local experts and other farmers using cover crops!

Web resources:

<http://covercrops.illinois.gov/> is a clearinghouse of all cover crop resources in Illinois.

<http://www.mccc.msu.edu/index.htm> Midwest Cover Crops Council—includes cover crop selector tool

Should your business be in this directory? Contact Jen Filipiak at the Illinois Stewardship Alliance: 217/528-1563 or jennifer@ilstewards.org!