

2016-2017 Winter Cover Crop Trials at the Beaumont Testing Site

Brassica Cover Crop

Drill planting mustard (cv. Caliente 199)



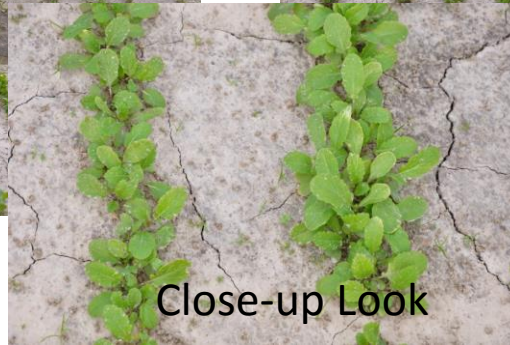
Key Management Tips

- Brassica cover crop can be either drill seeded (left picture) or broadcasted over well prepared seedbeds.
- Selection of a right planting date is the key to producing a successful brassica cover crop. In southeast Texas, mid-November is the optimum planting date for winter brassica cover crop, at which time cool temperature is good for brassica crop to grow but not favorable for the growth of weeds.

Brassica Cover Crop

Brassica plants at 5 weeks after seeding

Students assessing plant stand and weed densities



Close-up Look

- Mustard (cv. Calienle 199) can be drill seeded at the rate of 10 to 15 lb/A.
- Brassica cover crop grows better in well-drained soil. Establishing a good drainage system is the key to producing a brassica cover crop (see photos).

Brassica Cover Crop



- Brassica cover crop should be terminated by incorporation into soil at flowering or before seed set to get maximum aboveground biomass and to avoid the production of seeds that could become a weed problem in the coming season.

Annual Ryegrass Cover Crop

Broadcasted ryegrass seeds on the prepared bed



Management Tips

- Annual ryegrass can be broadcast planted at the rate of 45 lb/A.
- October and November are its optimum planting dates.
- No irrigation is needed for the germination and growth of ryegrass. Its growth can solely depend on rainfalls.

Annual Ryegrass Cover Crop

Annual Ryegrass at 5 weeks after seeding



Close-up Look



- Establishing a good drainage system (see above photo) will help the establishment and growth of ryegrass cover crop.
- Annual ryegrass is one of most successful winter cover crops in southeast Texas.

Annual Ryegrass Cover Crop



- Ryegrass cover crop should be terminated by incorporation into soil before seed set to get maximum aboveground biomass and to avoid the production of seeds that could become a weed problem in the coming season. Ryegrass can produce more than 4,000 lb/A of dry aboveground biomass in southeast Texas.