

Mississippi State University Cover-Crop Trial, 2020-2021

Introduction: Many seed companies and clientele that specialize in forage crops have expanded some of their products to act as cover crops in mixtures or in monoculture. The majority of the time cover crops are planted prior to grain crop production to stabilize residual nitrogen or to increase nitrogen content (via legumes) for the following crop. Seed companies do not always have an outlet to test state wide cover crop performance.

Protocol: Cover crop entries will be fall planted from October 1st-15th at the recommended seeding rate. The entire study will be limed and fertilized with P and K according to the soil test recommendations. Termination treatments will include March 15th, April 1st, and April 15th to incorporate corn, cotton, and soybean management systems. Entire plots will be harvested with a subsample removed to determine dry matter and analyzed for forage quality using NIRS. N availability will be predicted using the N availability equation from the University of Georgia. The study will include 3 replications at three locations.

Data Collected: Weed suppression rating at termination, N availability estimate (two week, four week, and three months), Dry matter yield.

Location: Starkville, Newton, Brooksville

Entry: \$700 per entry.

3 pounds of seed sent by September 15th with the appropriate entry form

Checks made out to: Mississippi State Forage Variety Testing

Seed and Checks sent to:

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
Attn: Joshua White
32 Creelman St
Mississippi State, MS, 39762