



NEWS RELEASE

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UPDATED COVER CROP SELECTION TOOL NOW AVAILABLE

Cover crop use has been gaining adoption by farmers in the upper Midwest in recent years. They have been a common practice farther south with milder winters for several decades, but our cold winters have prevented wider adoption until recent years.

As we move into fall harvest season, many farmers will be making decisions regarding planting of cover crops. One of those decisions will be what species to plant following harvest of the current crop. Successful cover crop use involves selection of species that are well adapted to the timing of planting and the goals of the farmer.

The Midwest Cover Crops Council, a collaborative effort lead by soil scientists and agronomists from upper Midwest states Land Grant Universities and Canadian Provinces Ministry of Agriculture has worked together to develop a recently updated on-line tool to help farmers determine viable cover crops for their specific geography and crop rotation. The users input their state and county, along with the crop they have in the field and planting and harvest dates and the selection tool will provide a listing of viable options.

The selection tool is hosted by Michigan State University and can be accessed at this web address: <http://mccc.msu.edu/selector-tool/>. In addition to the selector tool there are numerous other cover crop resources located at the website located at this address: <http://mccc.msu.edu/>.

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