

# Cover Crop Fact Sheet

Cover Crops  
Improve Soil  
Conditions  
and Prevent  
Pollution



Paulus Dairy no-tilled winter rye into chopped corn silage on April 18, 2022. Photo taken May 16, 2022.

OZAUKEE  
COUNTY LAND &  
WATER

Primary Business Address  
121 W. Main St.  
Port Washington, WI 53074

Phone: 262-284-8313  
Fax: 262-284-8367

Website:  
[co.ozaukee.wi.us/295/Land  
-Water-Management](http://co.ozaukee.wi.us/295/Land-Water-Management)

May 2023

## What are Cover Crops?

A cover crop is a plant that is used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests and diseases, increase biodiversity and bring a host of other benefits to your farm.

## Why Plant Cover Crops?

In addition to the list of benefits above, cover crops have also been shown to increase crop yields, break through a plow pan, add organic matter to the soil, improve crop diversity on farms and attract pollinators. There is an increasing body of evidence that growing cover crops increases resilience in the face of erratic and increasingly intensive rainfall, as well as under drought conditions.

## Things to Consider When Picking a Cover Crop

- Identify your primary objectives for adding cover crops to your system
- Identify the best time and place to fit cover crops into your rotation
- Think through exactly how and when you will seed, terminate and plant into your cover crop