

# Impacts of cover crop planting dates on soil properties after 4 years

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Cover crops at termination time in spring at Mead, NE. Credit: K. Koehler-Cole

Cover crop impacts on soil properties depends on cover crop productivity. Planting cover crops early and in a diverse mix of species could be an option to boost biomass production and enhance benefits to soils. However, the impacts of early planting and species mixes on soil properties are not well understood.

In a recent article in *Agronomy Journal*, researchers investigated how

broadcasting [cover crops](#) pre-harvest or drilling post-harvest affected biomass production and soil properties after four years. Cover crops were cereal rye, a mix of rye, legumes, and brassicas, and a no cover crop control. These were studied under no-till rainfed and irrigated [continuous corn](#) and corn-soybean rotations at three sites in the eastern Great Plains.

Cover crop biomass was low (

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