

# 2021 Autumn Cover Crop Sign-Up

Funding provided by Skagit County Voluntary Stewardship Program.

## Cover Crop Grant Program



This fall, Skagit County and Skagit Conservation District (SCD) are teaming up to provide grants to help farmers offset the cost of cover crop seed. Cover crops are a great way to recycle nitrogen, improve soil organic matter and carbon sequestration, reduce erosion, improve water quality, and maintain living roots and the soil biotic community.

If you are thinking about trying cover crops in your fields, consider applying for a grant with us.

## 2021 Overview and Enrollment Eligibility



- ◆ Grants will be awarded for this limited funding on a first-come, first served basis following review of applications.
- ◆ There are no acreage minimum or maximum requirements. All planted acres must be in Skagit County.
- ◆ Seed costs will be reimbursed for approved applications. Producers supply the labor and the equipment or hire the work out.
- ◆ Cover Crop seed must be planted by October 31, 2021.
- ◆ Cover crops must be terminated between March 1 and June 1, 2022. SCD farm planners will work with producers to develop an approved termination plan.
- ◆ Eligible cover crop species exclude cash crops that will be harvested in 2022 (i.e. winter wheat planned for commercial harvest).

## Seed Requirements

- ◆ All seed must be consistent with all local and state ordinances and regulations (i.e. restrictions on brassicas in commercial brassica seed growing areas).
- ◆ Purchased seed must be free of prohibited noxious weed seeds and have a germination rate of 80% or better.

## How to Get Started

- ◆ Contact a SCD Farm Planner. If you don't remember who your planner is or haven't worked with SCD before, contact Emmett Wild [emmett@skagitcd.org](mailto:emmett@skagitcd.org) 360-428-4313x1015 or Jeff Frazier [jeff@skagitcd.org](mailto:jeff@skagitcd.org) 360-428-4313x1014
- ◆ SCD Planner will collect some basic information about fields: 2020 and planned 2021 cash crop, cover crop species, seeding rate, termination plan, etc. Producers should provide a seed cost estimate.
- ◆ Planners will work to identify fields on a map and calculate acreage.
- ◆ Once this information is collected and approved, the planner and producer will sign the contract and approve ordering seed.

## Management Options

- ◆ Cover crops may be grazed or chopped for on-farm livestock forage after becoming well established.
- ◆ Manure may be applied in the fall at agronomic rates.

## Certification Requirement

To receive payment, producers must certify cover crop germination/establishment with the Skagit Conservation District farm planner.