

Cover Crop Establishment at Corn Planting Using
Conventional and IMI-Corn Hybrids

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The establishment of cover crops at the time of corn planting takes advantage of good soil moisture, early growth, and good seed bed preparation. Red clover with and without a Paclobutrazol growth retardant seed treatment was established by hand broadcasting, following corn planting using Eradicane herbicide. Alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, red clover, perennial ryegrass and orchard grass were established with an IMI-corn hybrid using Pursuit herbicide post-emergence. Both studies were planted May 30th. There was no difference in the percent cover of the 2 clover treatments averaging 62% cover on 11/12/96 and averaging 1,235.9 kg/ha DM on 5/15/97. There was no significant difference between the corn silage DM between the clover treatments compared to the control averaging 13,548 kg/ha. All of the covers established well with the Pursuit herbicide except for orchard grass. The Red clover, alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil and perennial ryegrass had 83.8, 61.3, 71.7 and 50% cover respectively on 11/10/98. There was no significant difference between the corn silage DM between the cover crop treatments compared to the control averaging 11,305 kg/ha.

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