

Mission: To develop a Crop Database for the US that will allow producers to quickly and easily select the ideal cover crop or even cash crop for their climate, region and soil type.

Approximately 1.9 billion tons of soil from croplands erodes annually. With that soil is billions of dollars in nutrients washing downstream. This does not include the indirect costs of loss of fertility for the field where the soil came from, yield losses, productivity losses for the water bodies receiving the eroded soil. The best way to prevent these potentially devastating effects is to cover the soil with plants and residue.

Benefits of cover crops include:

- Erosion control and prevention
- Potential to reduce N fertilizer inputs when using legumes as cover crop
- Improved water holding capacity which means more water for your cash crop
- Deep rooted cover crops, such as Sunn Hemp, can break through plow layers for improved rooting depth
- Relieve soil compaction
- In heavily leached environments, act as catch crops to keep inputs in the field

Producers can quickly become overwhelmed by the number of options available to them for cover crops. The solution is simple; provide a database that makes selecting the cover crop as simple as the click of a button. The Crop Database will provide an up to date, comprehensive database of crops, soil conditions and regions that makes the process of selecting the ideal cover crop for a producer as easy and simple as clicking a button. The CD will also track market prices of the crops to allow producers to have all the information they need to develop the best system for their land, all in one place. Climate data will also be presented in the database to allow producers to plan for a wetter than normal spring or warmer than usual winter. The database will cover the globe allowing for even remote areas to access this valuable information.



Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of excess nutrients in runoff water.



Damage to agricultural land due to water erosion.



Wind and water erosion can be prevented simply by planting a cover crop.



Forage radish is effective at alleviating compaction.



Crimson clover is a legume cover crop that fixes N from the atmosphere and after termination can release that N to the



Cover crops are extremely effective at suppressing weeds and resisting compaction in large open areas such as the rows in this orchard.