

Southern Cover Crop Variety Trial

Overview:

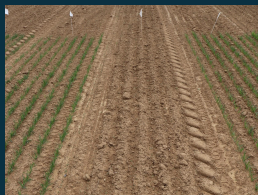
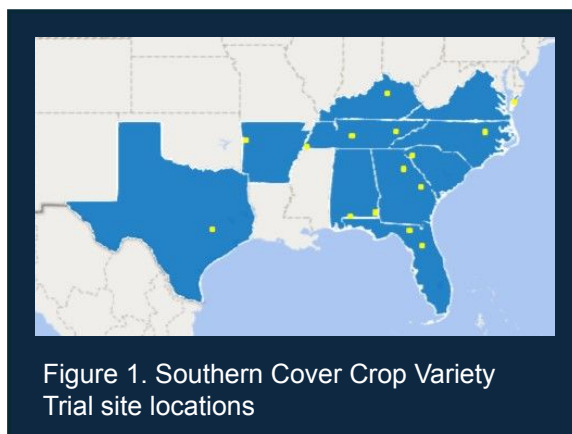
The Southern Cover Crop Variety Trial is an annual, fee-based, multi-state program that provides information on cover crop variety performance across a broad geographic region and under different production system timing. This trial started in TN in 2017 and expanded to cover the broader Southern region in 2022.

Methods

Design: A call for entries goes out every year in August. Total trial capacity is limited to twenty entries. Total participating sites varies by year, ranging from 8 to 15 sites across 8 to 10 states (Fig. 1). Treatments are arranged in a randomized complete block design with 3 reps per site.

Planting: Seed is planted at species-appropriate rates to a depth of 0.5 in using a drill in early to mid-Oct. Plot size is a single drill width by 20 ft.

Data Collection: Data are collected at one month post planting (**1mpp**), Fall (**F**; early Dec.), Winter (**W**; early Feb.), Early Spring (**ES**, pre-corn), Late Spring (**LS**, pre-soybean)



Establishment
t
1 mpp



Cover Crop & Weed Cover
F, W, ES, LS



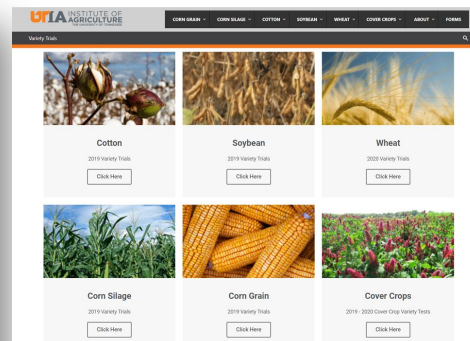
Biomass
ES, LS

- Nitrogen Release
- Forage Quality

Other
ES, LS

Results

- Data are analyzed and posted as an Extension publication on search.utcrops.com.
- Over 100 unique varieties representing 27 species evaluated since 2017.
- Creation of web-based, searchable, sortable database in progress
- For more information on how to get involved, contact Virginia Sykes (vsykes@utk.edu)



Funding provided through entry fees. Project performed in collaboration with members of the Southern Cover Crops Council and hatch project S1085: Cover Crops for Sustainable Southern Agroecosystems