

# COVER CROP



Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340) is a 3-year practice that involves planting of specific crops. These crops are not harvested but are grown to cover the soil.

Part of California Farm Bureau's Healthy Soils Block Grant Program, learn more online at: [cfbf.com/HSP](https://cfbf.com/HSP)

### This practice aims to:

- Control wind and water erosion.
- Enhance soil health and organic matter.
- Improve water infiltration.
- Increase populations of pollinators.
- Minimize soil compaction.

### Criteria:

- Practice cannot not be overlapped with conservation cover and mulching practices.
- Projects aiming to implement this practice may not claim post-termination cover crop residue as mulching practice with natural materials, to prevent overestimation of GHG reductions achievements.
- The effective acreage for implementation of this practice is considered to be 70% of the total field acreage for orchard alleys.

### Implementation Guidelines:

#### Add legume or non-legume cover crop:

- Single or multiple species cover crop is planted without fertilizer.
- Cover crop is allowed to grow to produce as much biomass as possible.
- Cover crop biomass/residue should not be removed to other places.

### Appendix A: Standard Payments

Planting one type of species of cover crop: \$122.46

Planting multiple species of cover crop: \$153.32

### Verification Requirements:

- 3-4 geotagged photographs showing established cover crops in field ( $\geq 60\%$  coverage).
- Receipts of cover crop seeds purchased.
- Cover crop species name and seeding rate.