

Cover Crops on the Prairies

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Cover crops are grown to cover the soil at times when the soil would otherwise be left bare. They are planted primarily to provide soil health and other agronomic benefits and are not harvested as a cash crop; however, some cover crops are grazed as annual forage. Cover crops have become an established part of conventional agriculture in North America. In Manitoba, cover crops are being grown by early adopters. This presentation will highlight what was learned about the current practices, goals, and challenges of 281 early adopters that responded to the Prairie Cover Crops survey and grew over 100,000 acres of cover crops across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in 2020. Insights from the survey will be connected to current on-farm and small plot research underway that is focused on how to adapt the practice of growing cover crops to prairie conditions.