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Optimizing establishment of corn in cover crops and living mulches to maintain yield while reducing nitrate losses

Principal Investigator: Julie Grossman

Organization: University of Minnesota, Department of Horticultural Science

Sponsor: Clean Water Fund

Award Amount: \$232,244

Start Date: 5/9/2014 | *End Date:* 12/31/2016

Project Manager: Heidi Peterson (Heidi.Peterson@state.mn.us)

Project Summary

This project will test three methods of field preparation for corn with the goal of developing more effective methods to establish corn in cover crops and living mulches, since poor early season growth is a major cause of yield loss in these systems. The three methods include: no-till, strip till and PTO-rotary till. This experiment will be conducted over two (possibly three) growing seasons at the University of Minnesota's Research and Outreach Centers in Rosemount and Waseca. Rosemount will focus on a living mulch system, taking advantage of an existing kura clover field. The research at Waseca will have an emphasis on winter annual cover cropping with a binary mixture of cereal rye and hairy vetch.

More information about this project will be available during the summer of 2014. Please contact Heidi Peterson if you have any questions.

MDA Contact

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