

Citizen Science for Great Lakes Cover Crops

Date: _____

Farm Name: _____

Field ID: _____

(the Field ID should be the same as what you submitted in the Farm & Management survey)

Instructions:

1. Navigate to your cover crop field and take a photo of the entire field.
2. Rate the level of patchiness of the cover crop across the entire field (1 = not patchy at all; 3 = half bare soil, half cover crop; 5 = extremely patchy):

1	2	3	4	5
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3. Circle the unit you will record your height measurements in: *inches* *centimeters*
4. Next, navigate to a location in your field with **average** cover crop growth, making sure to avoid field edges.
5. On the next page, assign each overwintering species in your mixture a number and visually estimate their relative proportions (for example, Species 1 = 75%, Species 2 = 25%). If your mixture contains more than four species, list the four most dominant species.
6. Holding your arm out parallel to the ground, **take a photo of the cover crop canopy**. The photo should be directly overlooking the cover crops, like an aerial photo (i.e., NOT at an angle). Make sure to avoid capturing any shadows, shoes, or other objects in the photo.
7. In the space provided on the next page, rate the amount of **weed pressure** at this location on a scale of 1 to 5.
8. Collect and record **three height measurements for each cover crop species** in your mixture (or the four most dominant species if more than a four-species mixture), *making sure the height measurements are recorded under the correct species number* assigned in step 5.
9. Repeat steps 4-8 at two more locations in your field.
10. When you are finished with your field assessment, take a picture of (or scan) these data sheets, and send them, along with your cover crop photos, to herricke@umich.edu.

