

Cover Crop Adoption in the Mid-South

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Cover crop adoption is a relatively new practice in the region, and a major educational effort has taken place to promote cover crops in the region. The survey queried farmers on their use of cover crops; the two posed questions regarding this can be seen in Figure 1. If the answer was positive (i.e., "Yes"), the party then could report the specie of the cover crop(s) and acres planted. The respondent was free to provide additional specie/acreage information as appropriate. While the vast majority of positive replies (77%) reported just a single cover crop, up to four different species/acreages were reported by some farmer respondents. Table 1 shows the results regarding the responses received on cover crops.

Table1. Participant responses regarding use of cover crops

Do you use any cover crops?	Number of Responses	Number of different species reported on				
		1	2	3	4	Total
(1) Yes	140	140	31	9	3	183
(2) No	325	---	---	---	---	---
(3) Don't Know	1	---	---	---	---	---
(4) Prefer not to answer	0	---	---	---	---	---
Total	466	---	---	---	---	---

In approximately 20% of the cases in which a cover crop was reported, the grower did not supply information regarding the planted acreage. In these instances, the estimated planted acreage in those cases were calculated using a value of 0.50 of the mean of reported acreages for that species. Also, in the cases where two, three, or four species of cover crop were reported as being grown, but only a single collective acreage amount was provided, then the individual cover crop acreages were prorated equally.

