

Project: On-farm demonstration of recommended cover cropping techniques for weed management in squash

Objectives:

Improve weed management in squash production while reducing both pesticide use and manual labour needed for weed control. Cover crops and cover crop mulch also protect the soil from erosion.

Why this is important:

Weed control in Cucurbits can be a challenge. There are a limited number of herbicides available, many of which can have drawbacks, such as:

- discolouration of the squash/pumpkins
- delayed crop development
- crop injury
- crop rotation restrictions due to herbicide carryover
- soil type restrictions

Research has shown that this new technique can improve weed control in Cucurbits, with the added benefit of erosion reduction and improved squash quality.

Project length:

One year. The cover crop will be seeded in September: fall rye interseed with bands of oats. The oats winterkill, which creates a zone the following spring where the cash crop can be direct no-till seeded into the rolled cover crop. For more details, please see:

<http://www5.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1469020473531>

Project co-operators:

Perennia is working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as part of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. AAFC researchers have already done the research and we are now partnering to bring the results of the research to the field! Stay tuned to the

<http://www.novascotiavegetableblog.com/> for updates on this project and for a field day showcasing this new technique in summer 2017!