



MILLE LACS SOIL SERVICE ASSN. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

FSA DATES, DEADLINES, OR MESSAGES

It is last call for all farmers to report their acreage to the FSA office.
The deadline is July 15, 2026!

The nomination period for the FSA County Committee is now open. For 2026, the Benton/Mille Lacs FSA office has 2 areas up for nomination.

For Benton County, the election will take place in LAA #3, which consists of the following Townships: Watab, Mayhew Lake, Gilmanton, Maywood, Sauk Rapids, and Minden. For Mille Lacs County, an election will take place in LAA #5, which consists of the following Townships: Borgholm, Bogus Brook, and Princeton. Nominations must be turned in by August 3, 2026. If you reside in one of these areas, please consider nominating yourself or a qualified candidate to represent your area on the County Committee.

WEEDS, WEEDS, WEEDS

Weeds characterized as broad leaves command a great deal of attention from herbicide vendors. Pigweed and waterhemp (both of the amaranthus family), for example, are generally indicative of low calcium and high magnesium soils (generally poorly drained soils) but also a phosphate-potassium imbalance, and can often indicate a copper problem. Copper is important in the utilization of manganese and iron, as well as being important in the control of fungal disorders. If you need help identifying these weeds in the future, call us! 320.294-5511

An easy way to spot the difference is that pigweed has tiny hairs all over the stem, whereas waterhemp has a smooth stem; the leaves look similar, and either stem could be green or reddish in color.

WHAT TOOL DO YOU USE?

Herbicides have been and always will be a major weed management tool. These days, though, they need help. Herbicide-resistant weeds are ravaging existing sites of action. Enter cover crops. If used properly, they have the potential to suppress weeds, provided there is enough biomass production. Early seeding is key to establishing cover crops so they can snuff out weeds. Unfortunately, the weather can override this plan.

Carryover and injury from cash crop herbicides can decimate cover crop stands, which then gives weeds room to roam. Preliminary data from 2020 shows that U or M tests at three sites with these cover crops - winter cereal rye (grass), red clover (legume), and brassica - show encouraging results. Cereal rye performed the best at suppressing early-emerging weeds like giant ragweed, although red clover also worked well! Check the back of this page for more information!



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Thank You For Choosing Mille Lacs Soil Service!

HERBICIDE RESISTANT CROPS

Weed management to prevent herbicide-resistant weeds requires a well thought out strategy. Best management practices should consider control of weeds present in the field as well as control during the cropping sequence. A weed management strategy including an assortment of herbicide mixtures along with nonchemical options is necessary to preserve the value of herbicides and herbicide-resistant traits. It is important to read and follow label guidelines when applying herbicides to any crop. The label of some glyphosate products indicates they can be applied to Roundup Ready and glyphosate-tolerant crops. Most glyphosate labels state the products are for use in Roundup Ready crops or in crops that have the Roundup Ready gene. Other glyphosate labels have language stating the glyphosate product can only be applied to glyphosate-tolerant crops.

THE PURPOSE OF COVER CROPS

Cover crops are grown primarily to benefit the successful growth of other future crops. Planting cover crops helps with soil erosion, improves soil health, crowds out weeds, controls pests & diseases, increases biodiversity, and can bring a host of other benefits to your farm or garden, including increased profitability. If you have a really thick mat or cereal rye in the spring, there's good potential to decrease early emerging weeds like giant ragweed and grasses, too. Waterhemp has had a later-emerging pattern, while giant ragweed emerges much sooner. This enables waterhemp to dodge cover crops, retain soil nutrients, prevent soil erosion, build soil organic matter, break soil compaction, add nitrogen, conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds, and provide additional forage, but that's just to name a few!

"Put your trust in us."

We've been in the business for over 55 years, we know what we're doing and we do it well. We still believe in a firm handshake, a hard day's work, and the love our customers have for the land. We're here for you from the first soil sample until harvest. If you want the best, done right & at a fair price - put your trust in us.

-Mille Lacs Soil Service Assn.

WATERHEMP VS. PIGWEED



INCORPORATING COVER CROPS

For a quick way to get started, Minnesota cover crop recipes provide step-by-step guidance to some of the lowest risk starting points for cover crops. These recipes don't cover all possibilities, but they can help incorporate cover crops into a farm operation.

Scan the codes below with your smartphone's camera or visit midwestcovercrops.org for Minnesota Cover Crop Recipes

POST Corn, going into soybean: Use Cereal Rye



POST Soybean, going into corn: Use Oats



POST Corn silage, going to corn: Use Cereal Rye



POST Corn silage, going to soybean: Use Cereal Rye

