

Climate Resilient Organic Vegetable Production

Cover crop-based reduced tillage strategies

Who We Are

We are a group of organic vegetable farmers, educators, and researchers in the Upper Midwest. We came together in 2018 over concerns with the impact of extreme weather events on vegetable production, the lack of data-driven recommendations for increasing system resilience for vegetable production, and the need to test strategies on-farm.



Our Focus

Reduced tillage and increased use of cover crops are recommended responses to limit damage to soil and crops from extreme weather events. The wide range of planting and cultivation methods used in diversified vegetable production limits adoption of uniform cover crop and reduced tillage methods. Farmers that use reduced tillage methods successfully often emphasize the importance of fine-tuning methods to individual farm production systems – bringing home the importance of farmer-led on-farm trialing for these methods.



A Community of Practice

We are committed to farmer-led research and experimentation, and farmer-to-farmer learning, as paths toward practical strategies to manage and adapt to a changing climate while growing a diverse mix of vegetable crops and building soil health. During the pandemic, we have continued to meet online for group discussions of the reduced tillage strategies and cover crop management that our farmer members are testing. As we move forward into another growing season, we are exploring new strategies and preparing to take our on-farm research to a new level. Our email group hosts discussions ranging from trouble-shooting cover crop management, to finding appropriately scaled equipment (see our handout on a small-scale roller-crimper), to opportunities for funding and presenting research.



To learn more and get involved:

- Join our email group by emailing CROVP+subscribe@googlegroups.com
- Contact Rue Genger (rkgenger@wisc.edu) or Claire Strader (claire@csacoalition.org)
- Visit our website by scanning the QR code or at <https://sites.google.com/view/climate-resilience-for-organic>



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