



# Can We Cover Crop on the Palouse

Frank Wolf-

Bio: Farm SE Washington, 16-22 R.F.

All acreage annual crop using Cross Slot drill 1998.  
Working on covers implementation 2013/hay  
graze, Inter-seed, traditional c.c. to cash crop

# Recap '19 and moving on '20-'21

- Find cover that will be successful in promoting the following;
  - Grow either as inter-seeded or between cash crop rotation and show ROI
  - Help stabilize or increase soil pH
  - Nutrient Cycling
  - Feed the Biology
  - Less Use of Synthetic Chemistries (Fert, Pesticides)
- Integrate the cover into our cropping system;
  - Important to maintain income off ALL acreage for our farm model
  - No negative impact cash crop or acreage

# Trials and Data Collection

2019-20 Partnered with:

P.N.W. COOP, University of Idaho, Palouse C.D., USDA P.M.C

- Planted 26 different plants/mixes
- Identify each plants impact
  - Establishment, competition, biomass, attractors, soil impact, and affect cash crop

2019/2020 Cover Crop Trial  
Control - Billy Beans  
Seeded May 14th

101	Pacific Gold
102	Kodiak
103	Whitegold
104	Idagold
105	MM Trifecta
106	Calienta
107	HC 930 Canola
108	Purple Turnip
109	Nitro Radish
110	Smart Radish
111	Sunn Hemp
112	Okra
113	Flax
114	Flax/BB
115	Berseem Clover
116	Crimson Clover
117	Balansa Clover
118	Cowpea
119	Faba
120	Mung
121	Hay/Graze
122	Nitrogen Fix
123	Nutrient Recycle
124	Everything
125	PNW Fumigation
126	Sunflower
	Sunflower
	Sunflower
	Sunflower

# Some Plot Pictures



*Cover Crop Plots*

*Seeded May 14th*



*Establishment*

*Evaluations: June-July*

*Bio mass, Weed Con. Bloom*



*Full Bloom right before seed set termination/mow*

*July 19th*



## Plot Pics

Termination July  
19th

August:

Residue completely  
dried down with no  
observable regrowth  
(Including Weeds)

Seeded all plots  
Winter Wheat Oct  
12th

# Results

- Each Plot Evaluated
  - Weed control, Plant Density, Establishment, Bloom Set Date (P.M.C.), Insect/Disease Impact (U. of I.)
- Post Plot Evaluation: (P.C.D. Ryan Boylan)
  - Soil tested for Organic Matter, pH, Nutrient Cycling, Cash Crop Yield Impact (PNW COOP)
  - Develop a mix/es from high ranking plants

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 ANALYSIS DATE  
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 Oct 21, 2019

PALDUSY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 RYAN BOYLAN  
 1815 NE EASTGATE BLDG H  
 PULLMAN WA 99163

SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

TEST	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	RESULT	REFERENCE RANGE	TEST	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	RESULT	REFERENCE RANGE
06810CC	PL0201	5.40	41	52	4.96	150	1479	21	8.8
06810CC	PL0202	5.84	30	52	5.12	206	1466	19	8.8
06811CC	PL0203	5.02	32	46	6.30	235	1622	22	8.8
06812CC	PL0204	4.38	32	53	6.87	215	1554	20	8.8
06813CC	PL0205	5.44	29	52	6.01	227	1617	23	8.8
06814CC	PL0206	5.40	29	50	5.18	223	1682	20	8.8
06815CC	PL0207	5.02	25	43	4.90	206	1580	20	8.8
06816CC	PL0208	5.32	32	46	5.50	192	1486	18	8.8
06817CC	PL0209	5.32	23	43	4.68	236	1681	23	8.8
06818CC	PL0210	5.32	23	43	4.68	236	1681	20	8.8

TEST	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	RESULT	REFERENCE RANGE
06819	11	40	0-12	40
06820	11	40	0-12	40
06821	4	14	0-12	14
06822	8	28	0-12	28
06823	16	54	0-12	54
06824	8	32	0-12	32
06825	5	18	0-12	18
06826	11	40	0-12	40
06827	8	28	0-12	28
06828	7	28	0-12	28

For these analytical results visit us in the computer laboratory. Results are entered in a database of all data.

# Chart of Data

Rep	Cover Crop	Plants/acre	pH	CEC	POXC	Nitrate OM	Total OM N (lbs)	Nitrate		STDEV	P (lbs)	K (ppm)	S (lbs)	Zn (ppm)	Mn (ppm)	Fe (ppm)	Cu (ppm)	B (ppm)	+/-	Cover Crop	Rep
								Woods	Kyle												
206	Pacific Gold	12	5.8	14.3	793	5.4	81	32	113	48	58	518	34	1.1	23	162	0.9	0.5	1	Pacific Gold	206
212	Kodiak	12	5.6	16.2	731	5	75	29	104	100	60	487	30	1.2	23	217	1.1	0.5	-	Kodiak	212
223	Whitegold	12	5.8	14.1	782	4.3	64.5	18	83	88	34	294	20	0.6	15	69	0.9	0.3	-8	Whitegold	223
226	Idagold	12	5.7	15.2	730	4.4	66	22	88	98	48	319	32	0.6	18	69	1	0.3	-3	Idagold	226
210	MM Trifecta	12	5.7	16	766	5.1	76.5	25	102	106	56	458	36	1	22	186	0.9	0.5	3	MM Trifecta	210
202	Calienta	12	5.5	14.1	814	5.6	84	40	124	91	60	513	26	1.4	25	228	1.1	0.5	2	Calienta	202
214	HC 930 Canola	12	5.4	15.8	759	5.2	78	32	110	71	48	527	40	1.3	29	227	1.1	0.6	2	HC 930 Canola	214
203	Purple Turnip	10	5.8	13.6	793	5	75	14	89	103	64	530	20	2.2	19	106	19.3	0.4	1	Purple Turnip	203
201	Nitro Radish	8	5.5	14	873	5.4	81	40	121	104	82	496	40	1.1	31	141	1	0.5	5	Nitro Radish	201
215	Smart Radish	8	5.7	15.7	734	5.3	79.5	32	112	90	44	480	34	1.1	20	180	0.9	0.5	1	Smart Radish	215
205	Sunn Hemp	8	5.6	14.9	793	5.4	81	54	134	130	58	531	32	1.2	26	196	1	0.5	6	Sunn Hemp	205
224	Okra	8 lbs	5.7	13.8	807	4.3	64.5	72	137	122	46	300	22	0.9	16	130	0.9	0.4	-2	Okra	224
222	Flax	40	5.8	14	765	4.2	63	18	81	81	44	279	20	0.6	15	63	0.9	0.3	-5	Flax	222
225	Nitro Radish	8	5.6	14.4	873	4.7	70.5	14	85	94	56	352	30	0.9	21	159	1	0.4	-1	Nitro Radish	225
204	Berseem Clover	25	5.6	14.6	762	4.9	73.5	29	103	72	64	587	30	1.3	39	372	1.3	0.6	2	Berseem Clover	204
221	Crimson Clover	25	5.7	14.8	796	4.8	72	29	99	73	46	319	36	0.6	20	92	0.9	0.3	-1	Crimson Clover	221
213	Balansa Clover	25	5.7	15.2	738	4.7	70.5	29	100	97	64	505	30	1.1	22	155	1	0.5	1	Balansa Clover	213
211	Cowpea	5	5.5	15.3	738	4.8	72	40	112	84	52	412	28	0.9	23	146	0.9	0.4	-1	Cowpea	211
209	Faba	5	5.8	14.3	766	5.3	79.5	29	109	56	46	448	26	0.8	20	87	0.9	0.4	-	Faba	209
207	Mung	5	5.9	13	804	5	75	18	93	78	50	430	22	0.8	16	92	0.8	0.4	-1	Mung	207
217	Hay/Graze		5.9	14.7	1035	4.8	72	11	83	41	46	383	30	0.6	17	65	0.9	0.3	-1	Hay/Graze	217
208	Nitrogen Fix		5.6	13.7	783	5.3	79.5	40	120	44	64	559	26	1	24	83	0.9	0.4	1	Nitrogen Fix	208
220	Nutrient Recycle		5.6	14.6	827	4.8	72	22	94	66	50	350	28	1.1	26	145	1	0.4	-	Nutrient Recycle	220
218	Everything		5.6	15.3	762	4.8	72	40	112	50	50	439	34	0.8	21	98	0.9	0.4	-1	Everything	218
216	PNW Fumigation	12	5.4	15.1	662	4.9	73.5	18	92	44	52	396	40	0.9	27	153	1	0.4	-1	PNW Fumigation	216
219	Sunflower	1.5	5.5	14.9	789	4.9	73.5	43	117	50	56	376	36	0.9	25	106	0.9	0.4	-1	Sunflower	219
	Sunflower	1.5	6	15.4	803	3.3	49.5	32	82	65	42	313	18	0.5	11	46	0.8	0.3	-6	Sunflower	
	Billy Beans	4	6	15.9	779	4.2	63	32	85	105	32	421	16	0.6	13	50	1	0.3	-4	Billy Beans	
	MEAN:		5.68	14.7	787.8	4.9	72.8	30.1	103.0	80.4	52.6	429.4	29.1	1.0	21.7	136.5	1.6	0.4	-0.4		
	STDEV:		0.16	0.81	64.66	0.49	7.33	13.19	16.01	24.54	10.28	89.88	6.85	0.35	5.88	71.05	3.47	0.09	3.19		

Soil Test Results

Palouse C.D./Western Laboratories

# Cash Crop Results 2020 Harvest

Some plants had up to 12 bu increase over the check

\$65 acre over Check

Pulled October, 2019

Entry	Cover Crop	0-100 Fertility	0-50 Soil Health	Organic Matter	pH	lb/acre Nitrogen	lb/acre Phosphorus	lb/acre Potash	Total Fertility	WW Bu/Ac
114	Flax/Billy Beans	73	25	5.4	5.5	40	82	40	271	127.3
111	San Hemp	76	26	5.4	5.6	54	58	32	257	120.2
112	Okra	72	23	4.3	5.7	72	46	22	245	109.3
126	Sunflower	65	22	4.9	5.5	43	56	36	222	117.6
106	Coltsfoot	69	24	5.6	5.5	40	60	36	230	122.8
105	Mighty Mustard	74	27	5.1	5.7	25	56	36	229	123.2
117	Balsam Clover	70	24	4.7	5.7	29	64	30	227	124.6
102	Brown Mustard	71	25	5.0	5.6	29	60	30	226	111.9
122	Nitrogen Fixation blend	61	22	5.3	5.6	40	64	38	224	121.8
115	Barsban Clover	66	23	4.9	5.6	29	64	30	223	119.6
101	Oriental Mustard	63	23	5.4	5.8	32	58	34	221	121.6
118	Cowpea	68	24	4.8	5.5	40	50	38	220	127.3
107	HC 930 RR	65	22	5.3	5.4	32	48	40	218	124.4
110	Smart Radish	71	25	5.3	5.7	32	44	34	217	127.9
124	Everything blend	61	21	4.8	5.6	40	50	34	216	123.2
108	Turnips	73	26	5.0	5.8	14	64	30	208	119.4
116	Crimson Clover	64	20	4.8	5.7	29	46	36	206	109.7
125	PNW Fumigation blend	61	22	4.9	5.4	18	52	40	203	117.6
109	Nitro Radish	69	23	4.7	5.6	14	56	30	202	118.4
123	Nutrient Recycle blend	66	23	4.8	5.6	22	50	38	199	121.8
104	Idagold Cond. Must	69	22	3.3	6.0	22	42	32	196	115.9
119	Faba Beans	62	21	5.3	5.8	29	46	36	193	115.9
120	Mung Beans	68	24	5.0	5.9	18	50	32	193	118.2
113	Flax	67	23	4.3	5.8	18	44	30	182	114.7
121	Hay/Grass blend	61	22	4.9	5.4	11	46	30	180	90.1
103	White Gold Cond. Must	68	23	4.3	5.8	18	34	20	173	116.8
Check	Billy Beans	68	21	4.3	6.0	22	32	16	169	n/a
MEAN:		67.4	23.3	4.9	5.6	30.4	53.5	30.1	213.5	118.6
STDEV:		4.2	1.7	0.5	0.2	13.2	10.3	6.5	23.6	7.5

2020 Winter Wheat Following:

Entry	Cover Crop	100 Range Lbs./1200#	200 Range Lbs./1200#	300 Range Lbs./1200#	Wheat Yield Bu/Ac	\$5.42/bu Gross \$\$ Per Acre
110	Smart Radish	24.0	20.0	19.3	127.9	\$ 693.03
114	Flax/Billy Beans	23.0	20.1	20.0	127.5	\$ 690.84
118	Cowpea	23.5	22.0	17.5	127.3	\$ 689.75
105	Mighty Mustard	21.7	19.8	20.5	125.2	\$ 678.80
117	Balsam Clover	20.6	21.1	20.0	124.6	\$ 675.32
107	HC 930 RR	22.0	19.9	19.7	124.4	\$ 674.42
124	Everything blend	25.2	17.1	18.7	123.2	\$ 667.85
106	Coltsfoot	23.1	19.4	18.3	122.8	\$ 665.66
123	Nutrient Recycle blend	23.3	19.5	17.5	121.8	\$ 660.19
101	Oriental Mustard	21.4	20.0	18.8	121.6	\$ 659.09
111	San Hemp	21.5	20.5	17.5	120.2	\$ 651.43
115	Barsban Clover	22.2	19.5	17.5	119.6	\$ 648.15
108	Turnips	23.0	20.6	15.5	119.4	\$ 647.05
122	Nitrogen Fixation blend	21.1	19.7	18.2	119.2	\$ 645.96
109	Nitro Radish	23.3	17.8	17.5	118.4	\$ 641.58
120	Mung	19.9	18.5	20.1	118.2	\$ 640.48
125	PNW Fumigation blend	21.6	18.5	18.1	117.6	\$ 637.20
126	Sunflower	23.5	17.3	17.4	117.6	\$ 637.20
103	White Gold Cond. Must	21.4	17.6	18.8	116.8	\$ 632.82
119	Faba	23.1	19.6	14.7	115.9	\$ 628.44
104	Idagold Cond. Must	22.0	18.9	16.5	115.9	\$ 628.44
113	Flax	23.0	18.6	15.2	114.7	\$ 621.87
102	Brown Mustard	20.7	19.6	15.1	111.9	\$ 606.54
116	Crimson Clover	22.7	17.6	14.0	109.7	\$ 594.50
112	Okra	24.0	16.2	14.0	109.5	\$ 593.40
121	Hay/Grass blend	16.0	14.6	14.0	90.1	\$ 488.30
MEAN:		22.2	19.0	17.5	118.5	\$ 642.25
STDEV:		1.72	1.57	1.90	7.52	\$ 40.77

Miscellaneous	Grass	Legume
Small Grains	Brassica	



2020

## Plot Take Away

- Plots Showed us many things
  - Weed control potential
  - Input/output potential
  - adaptability of potential plants used for cover/alternative crops.
  - Seeding date importance
- Adding soil amendment (O.M., Nutrient)
- 2 application of herbicides 12 month period 24 months between Glyphosate (check 5 apps pesticides/6 months between Glyphosate)
- Potential Higher return with following cash crop (up to \$65/acre)

# WSARE Grant



2020 received a WSARE Grant

Partnered with Palouse Conservation District

Scope of study is to look at:

Establishment techniques for different plant mixes for both inter-seed as well as over winter cover crop mix.

Seeding date/success

Study soil health benefits

Reduce synthetic inputs and monitor progress through a 3 year rotation (Year 1)

Develop a viable cropping rotation with integrated covers

# In Field Trials (WSARE)

- Plot Layout (7/1 acre plots)
- 3 Different Mixes
- Collard/Turnip 340,000 seed/acre VS
  - Pea/Sorghum/Radish/Collard/Turnip/Sunflower (1,000,000 seeds/acre goal)
- Seeding Methods
  - Both at planting and after wheat established (No-till Drill)
    - Very good establishment of all plots. Warm season plants didn't show
  - Broadcast after wheat established (June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>)
    - Epic fail. Some small plant clovers/brassica germed and then die due to conditions

## Spring 2020

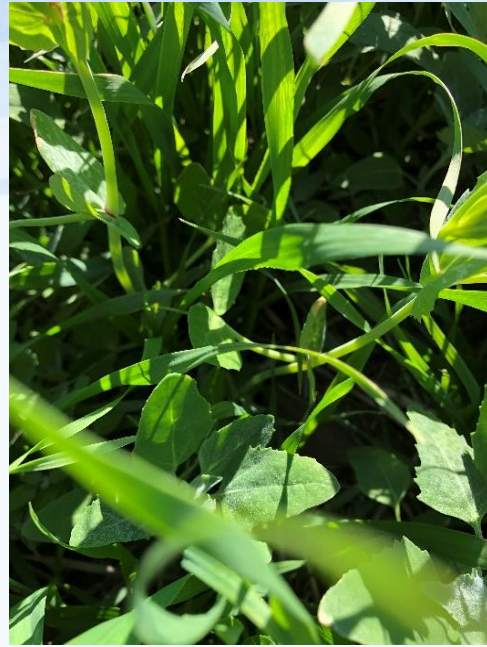


### Spring Wheat (WSARE and 8 acre Trial)

- Collards 2.6#
- Turnip 2.7#  
(these plants had high weed control in plots)

### ROI (8 acre trial):

- Yield Response 8bu???? Increase (\$44 Inc. Gross Return)
- Additional cost of \$12.47/acre
  - \$31 increase over rest of field
  - Need 2-2.5 bu increase to cover cost
- ????-Plot best ground/check was rest of field hilltops,etc...
- Will move to full field application to check economics



# Take Away and 2021 direction

## Take Away:

- Weed Control Advantage - Very Low - increase C.C. seed rate
- To early of termination (42 days to 60ish)
- Change mix to foster C.C. plant response (cool season)
- Eliminate warm season plants

## 2021 Mix for Sp. Grain:

(at time of seeding)

- Peas 10#
- Turnip 1#
- Radish 2 #
- Kodiak Mustard 1#
  
- \$11.89/acre cost
- 2.0 bu/acre increase need
  
- \$5.75 bu
  
- Full field implementation/capture the data

## 2021 WSARE

- Currently have planted and over winter C.C. mix
- Will terminate at time of seeding for spring cash crop/cover inter-seed
- More tests/econ to evaluate
- To be cont'd