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**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2015 9:05 AM  
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## Organic Reduced Tillage E-Network



### Strip Tillage, Early Cover Crop Termination, and Precision Cover Cropping Strip tillage advances

Our 2015 reduced tillage organic agriculture research included several new studies focused on improving strip tillage in organic vegetable systems. We complemented our ground-driven strip till pass with a power-driven pass. Our goal is to better manage residue in the strip to increase soil temperature and enhance mechanical weed control.



*Strip tilled Aroostook rye ready for transplanting, Puyallup WA, 2015.*

This year's prototype strip tillage system is

### Farmers wanted for on-farm research or demonstration sites

Are you interested in trying organic strip tillage on your farm? We are looking for more on-farm research or demonstration sites in western Washington. Contact [Doug Collins](#) by September 12th, 2015. Phone: 253-445-4658



*Strip tilling flail-mowed vetch (above) and broccoli planted in an on-farm organic strip till trial (below), Kirsop Farm, Rochester, WA 2015.*

being improved for 2016. Project leaders gained valuable insight by attending the 2nd Annual [Strip Tillage Conference](#) in Iowa City in August 2015.

### **Early Cover Crop Termination**

One study was devoted to pushing the termination date of cover crops earlier into the spring. Common vetch, Aroostook rye, and a mix of the two were grown and terminated by flail mowing at three different dates starting April 10, 2015.

### **Precision Cover Crop Planting**

Managing cover crops in reduced tillage organic agriculture systems can be challenging. We are testing if organic strip tillage can benefit from having one type of cover crop planted in crop rows and a different cover crop planted between crop rows. In 2015, we successfully planted common vetch in rows which were then planted to squash, and Aroostook rye between rows. A larger study is being planted for 2016.



*Common vetch was planted in rows between Aroostook rye, Puyallup, WA 2015*



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### **2016 Field Days**

Two field days are planned for 2016. A spring field day will highlight cover crop varieties, precision cover cropping, timing for cover crop termination, and termination strategies. A summer field day will highlight vegetable production, fertility, and cultivation in and adjacent to strips.

[More about Organic Reduced Tillage in the PNW on eOrganic](#)

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