

Cover Crop Cocktails: Assessing Costs and Benefits for Hawai‘i

SARE PROJECT OW16-022

Dave Elliott, Jayme Barton and Jean Brokish

Multi-species cover crops are planted by farms nation-wide to improve soil health and maintain productivity while reducing inputs. O‘ahu RC&D is collaborating with farmer-researchers in five different growing regions on the island of O‘ahu to assess cover crop cocktails in Hawai‘i’s unique growing conditions. Our objectives are:

- To compare and evaluate (1) a sunn hemp monoculture, (2) a standardized sunn hemp cocktail, and (3) a farmer-selected cocktail tailored to site-specific growing conditions,
- To document “pain points” experienced by farms adopting cover crop cocktails and identify potential solutions,
- To develop a cost-benefit analysis and other decision-making tools to support farmers interested in adopting cover crop cocktails.

Are cover crop cocktails a good fit for your farm?

