

Table 2.1. Schedule of major field operations and data collection events for the organic broccoli and pepper experiments, Ames, IA, 2014 and 2015.

Event	Date	
	2013–14	2014–15
Seeded cover crop	10 Sept. 2013	8 Sept. 2014
Soil samples taken	8 Apr., 22 Oct.	6 Apr., 23 Sept.
Broccoli seeded in greenhouse	5 May	28 Apr.
Peppers seeded in greenhouse	11 Apr.	8 Apr.
Tilled strips ^z	14 Nov., 11 June	12 Oct., 4 June
Cover crop biomass samples taken	7 May ^y , 3 June ^x	13 May ^y , 1 June ^x
Cover crop flail mowed and tilled in ^y	7 May	13 May
Cover crop roller-crimped ^x	3 June	1 June
Preplant fertilizer applied	11 June	5 June
Seedbed made using rotary tiller ^y	11 June	5 June
Broccoli plugs transplanted	13 June	9 June
Pepper plugs transplanted		
Weed biomass samples taken	2 July	8 July
Fertigation applications ^w	4, 17, & 26 July, 8 Aug.	2, 9, 14, & 21 July
Microbial biomass soil samples taken	8 July, 13 Aug. ^z , 29 Sept.	2 July, 13 Aug. ^z , 23 Sept.
All plots hand weeded	16 & 24 July	14 July
Plant height, stem diameter, SPAD measurements taken; leaf-petiole samples collected	8 Aug.	26 July
Broccoli harvest period	11 Aug.–12 Sept.	28 July–3 Sept.
Pepper harvest period	21 Aug.–3 Oct.	31 July–22 Sept.

^zApplies to strip tillage treatment only.

^yApplies to conventional tillage treatment only.

^xApplies to strip tillage and no tillage treatments only.

^wApplies to Split fertility treatment only.

^zSamples also analyzed for community-level physiological profile (CLPP)