

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)