



Cover crop mixture 6/27/12

Planted = June 7 or 8th,

Only 3 tenths of an inch of rain since planting. Approximately 5 inches total.

Turnip, radishes, sudan(hay grazer & sorghum sudan), sunflowers, soybeans, milo, and millet

### **Can I plant cover crops during a drought?**

Maintaining a soil ecology that promotes vigorous and sustainable crop production depends heavily on plant diversity, says Justin Fruechte, cover crop and forage specialist for Millborn Seeds, Brookings and North Sioux City, S.D.

"Cover crops are the most important factor in determining the biological diversity of the soil and the microorganisms in the soil and each plant introduced to the soil supports a host of unique bacterium, insects and organisms," Fruechte said.

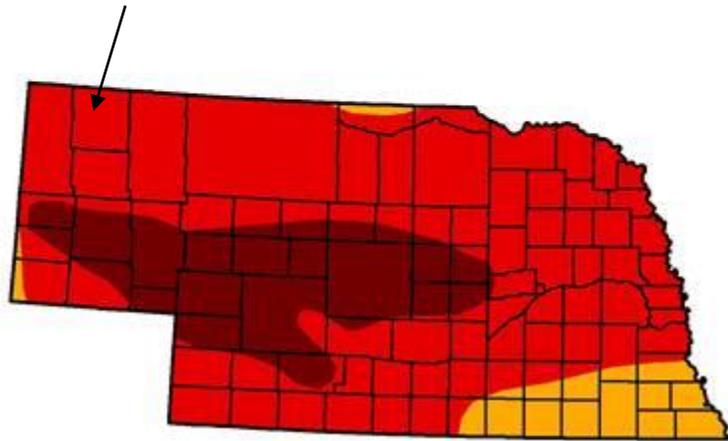
To increase the overall beneficial soil organisms, Fruechte recommends implementing a **diverse cover crop mixture**. Although the state is in a drought, he says cover crops can still grow.

"Most species have very fine seeds and require little moisture to germinate," he said. "When planting into dry soil, be sure to close the furrow tightly and that seed will wait for moisture."

To learn more about how to improve your soil's health by implementing cover crops, contact Justin Fruechte at [justinf@millbornseeds.com](mailto:justinf@millbornseeds.com) or 888-498-7333.

Here is an example of a cover crop mixture established in Northwestern Nebraska. Landowner is going to hay some and graze other areas that did not establish a consistent stand. Depth of seed was an

average of all the crops planted. Area has had approximately 5 inches of rainfall with 3 tenths coming after planting around 6/27 and another 3 tenths in 3 different rains between 6/27 and 8/22. We are dry!



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8/21/12 – another 3 tenths of an inch of rain since 6/27/12 photo.

Over all rain in this region just above 5 inches.

