



# On-Farm Demonstration Trial: Cover Crop Studies Planting Into Cover Crop Trials

**Mike Witt**—on-farm trials coordinator and agronomist, ISU Extension and Outreach

**Andrew Weaver**—agricultural specialist, ISU Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm

Dordt University, Agriculture Department

## Objective

Determine the effects of termination timing of cover crop on corn yields to define best management practices.

## Introduction

Planting soybean into a living cover crop is a practice more farmers are doing across the Midwest. There has been data that shows a minimal yield penalty to soybean when “green” planting occurs. This practice has the benefit of weed suppression to reduce early season herbicide costs. It also assists with improvement of overall soil health. The objectives of this trial are to study soybean yield differences with different herbicide application and planting timing in a winter wheat cover crop.

## Materials and Methods

### Crop Year–2021

Trial	210112
Trial County	Sioux
Soil Type	8B, 31, 91, 91B, 133, 310B, 310B2, 310C2, 428B
Previous Crop	Corn
Tillage	No-Till
Current Crop	Soybean
Hybrid– Variety Number	P22T86E
Hybrid– Variety Company	Pioneer/Corteva
Row Spacing	30 in.
Seeding Rate	140,000/ac.
Planting Date	May 3
Harvest Date	September 22
Experimental Type	On-Farm Demo
Replications	4
Cover Crop Mixture lbs/ac	Red Clover: 3.5 Cowpea: 17.5 Radish: 3.5 Cereal Rye: 24

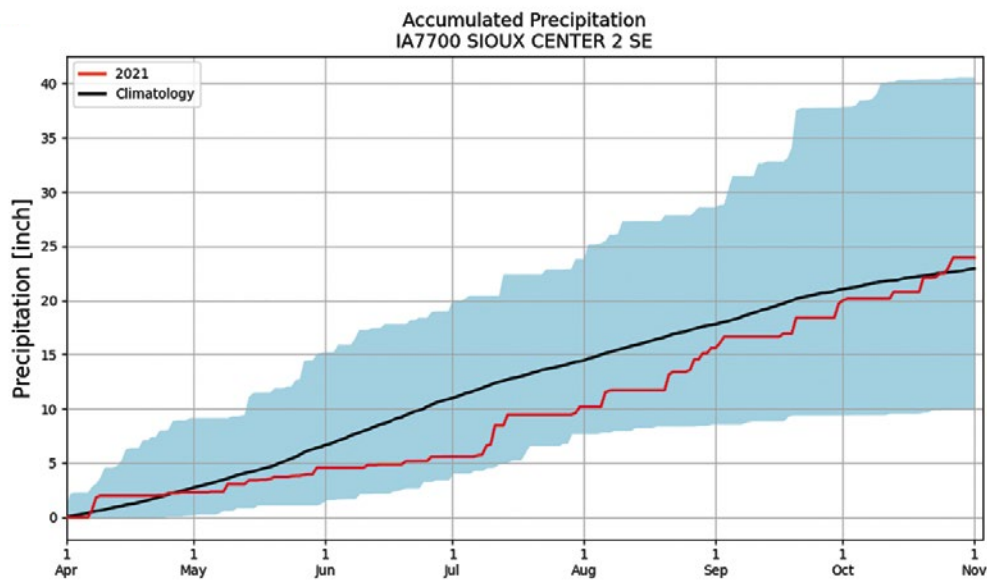
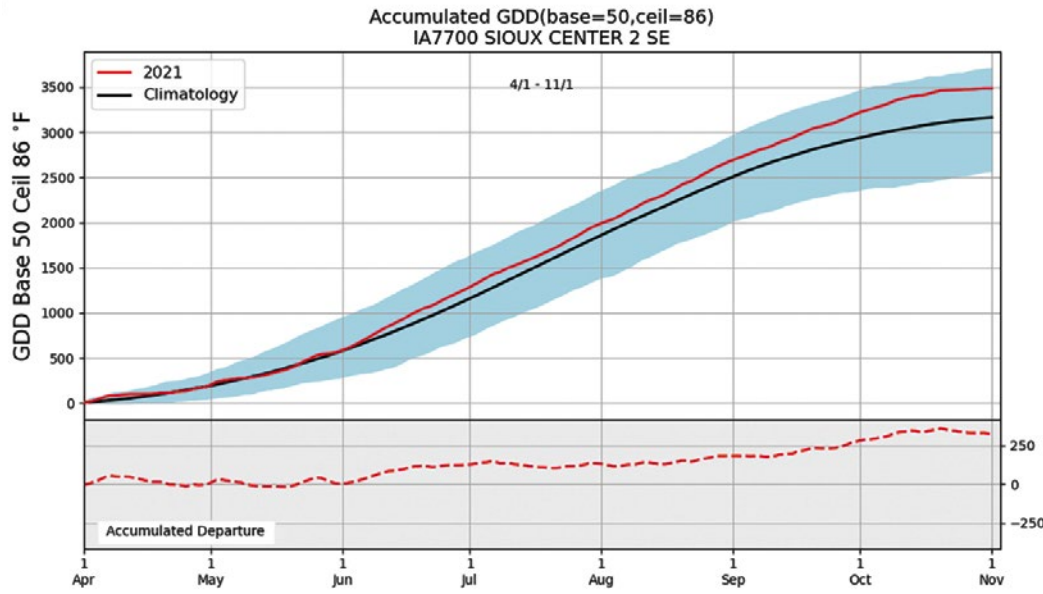
## Results

Trial Number	Treatment	Yield (bu./ac.) <sup>a</sup>	P-value <sup>b</sup>
210112	Cover Crop	80.7 a	0.25
	Untreated control with no cover crop	78.1 a	

<sup>a</sup>Values denoted with the same letter within a trial are not statistically different at the significance level of 0.10.

<sup>b</sup>P-value = the calculated probability that the difference in yields can be attributed to the treatments and no other factors. For example, if a trial has a P-value of 0.10, there is 90% confidence the yield differences are in response to treatments. This is consistent for demonstration trials.

## Location Climate Analysis



### Key Takeaways

- There was no statistical difference between treatments for yields in experiments.
- Planting soybean into terminated cover crop was not detrimental to yield in this trial.
- NOTE: The results presented are from replicated demonstration trials. Statistics are used to detect differences at a location and should not be interpreted beyond the single location.