



INTERCROP
VALUES



/ Business

Lolland-Falster

PRACTICE ABSTRACT N°11

Intercropping clover and wheat for regenerative farming

Problem

Intercropping clover and wheat can result in competition depending on the competitiveness of the crops and their sowing time. Dominant root structure of mature clover may outcompete wheat.

Solution

Intercropping clover and wheat requires careful **timing and balance** in intercropping systems. The method of establishing wheat in standing clover is critical.

Applicability box

Theme

Seeds and breeding - Intercropping wheat and clover

Keywords

Seed testing; Plant breeding; Wheat, clover, timing, nutrition benefits

Context

Denmark

Benefits

High protein wheat in combination with clover can improve yield through complementation. In addition, soil health preservation, nutrient efficiency, and climate resilience are positive benefits of the system.

Practical recommendations

- **Simultaneous establishment:** Sow clover and wheat together to ensure balanced competition and optimal nutrient sharing.
- **Avoid mature clover stands:** Do not attempt to introduce wheat into already established clover fields, if a commercial grain yield is desired.
- **Early sowing strategies:** Early establishment remains advantageous but must be coupled with synchronised crop development.
- **Monitor crop competition:** Regular field assessments should be carried out in early spring to detect early signs of crop competition.
- **Further trials:** Future experiments should test different sowing densities and clover varieties to optimise yield potential and interspecies interaction.





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Figure 1: Wheat in clover early sprouting in mature clover
Photo: Susanne Hovmand, Knuthenlund.



Figure 2: Wheat impacted negatively by clover and stopped

Further information

Weblinks

- <https://www.remix-intercrops.eu/>
- Check the [Organic Farm Knowledge Platform](#) for more practical recommendations.

About this practice abstract

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Contact: cm@businesslf.dk

Review: Boglarka Bozsogi, IFOAM Organics Europe; Christine Watson, SRUC; Odette Weedon, University of Kassel

IntercropVALUES aims to exploit the benefits of intercropping to design and manage productive, diversified, resilient, profitable, environmentally friendly cropping systems acceptable to farmers and actors in the agri-food chain. As a multi-disciplinary and multi-actor project, it brings together scientists and local actors representing the food value chain. It includes 27 participants from 15 countries (3 continents) from a wide diversity of organizations and stakeholders. The project will run for four years and started in November 2022.

Project website: <https://intercropvalues.eu/>





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Samdyrkning af kløver og hvede til regenerativt landbrug

Problem

Sammensmeltning af kløver og hvede kan føre til konkurrence afhængigt af afgrødernes konkurrenceevne og deres såningstid. Den dominerende rodstruktur hos moden kløver kan udkonkurrere hvede.

Løsning

Sammendyrkning af kløver og hvede kræver omhyggelig timing og balance i samdyrkningsystemer. Metoden til at etablere hvede i stående kløver er afgørende.

Fordele

Højproteinhvede i kombination med kløver kan forbedre udbyttet gennem komplementering. Derudover er bevarelse af jordens sundhed, næringseffektivitet og klimamodstandsdygtighed positive fordele ved systemet.

Practical recommendations

- **Samtidig etablering:** Så kløver og hvede sammen for at sikre balanceret konkurrence og optimal næringsfordeling.
- **Undgå modne kløverbestande:** Forsøg ikke at introducere hvede i allerede etablerede kløvermarker, hvis der ønskes kommercielt kornudbytte.
- **Tidlige såstrategier:** Tidlig etablering forbliver fordelagtig, men skal kombineres med synkroniseret afgrødeudvikling.
- **Overvåg afgrødekonkurrence:** Regelmæssige markvurderinger bør udføres tidligt på foråret for at opdage tidlige tegn på afgrødekonkurrence.
- **Yderligere forsøg:** Fremtidige eksperimenter bør teste forskellige såtætheder og kløversorter for at optimere udbyttepotentiale og interaktion mellem afgrøderne

Applicability box

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Figure 1: Wheat in clover early sprouting in mature clover
Photo: Susanne Hovmand, Knuthenlund.



Figure 2: Wheat impacted negatively by clover and stopped growing. Photo: Susanne Hovmand, Knuthenlund.

Further information

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- <https://www.remix-intercrops.eu/>
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IntercropVALUES sigter mod at udnytte fordelene ved intercropping til at designe og administrere produktive, diversificerede, robuste, profitable og miljøvenlige afgrødesystemer, som er acceptable for landmænd og aktører i agro-fødevarekæden. Som et tværfagligt og multiaktørprojekt samler det forskere og lokale aktører, der repræsenterer fødevareværdikæden. Den omfatter 27 deltagere fra 15 lande (3 kontinenter) fra en bred vifte af organisationer og interessenter. Projektet vil køre i fire år og startede i november 2022...

Project website: <https://intercropvalues.eu/>

