

# CULTURAL STRATEGIES OF WEED MANAGEMENT

## WHAT IS IT?

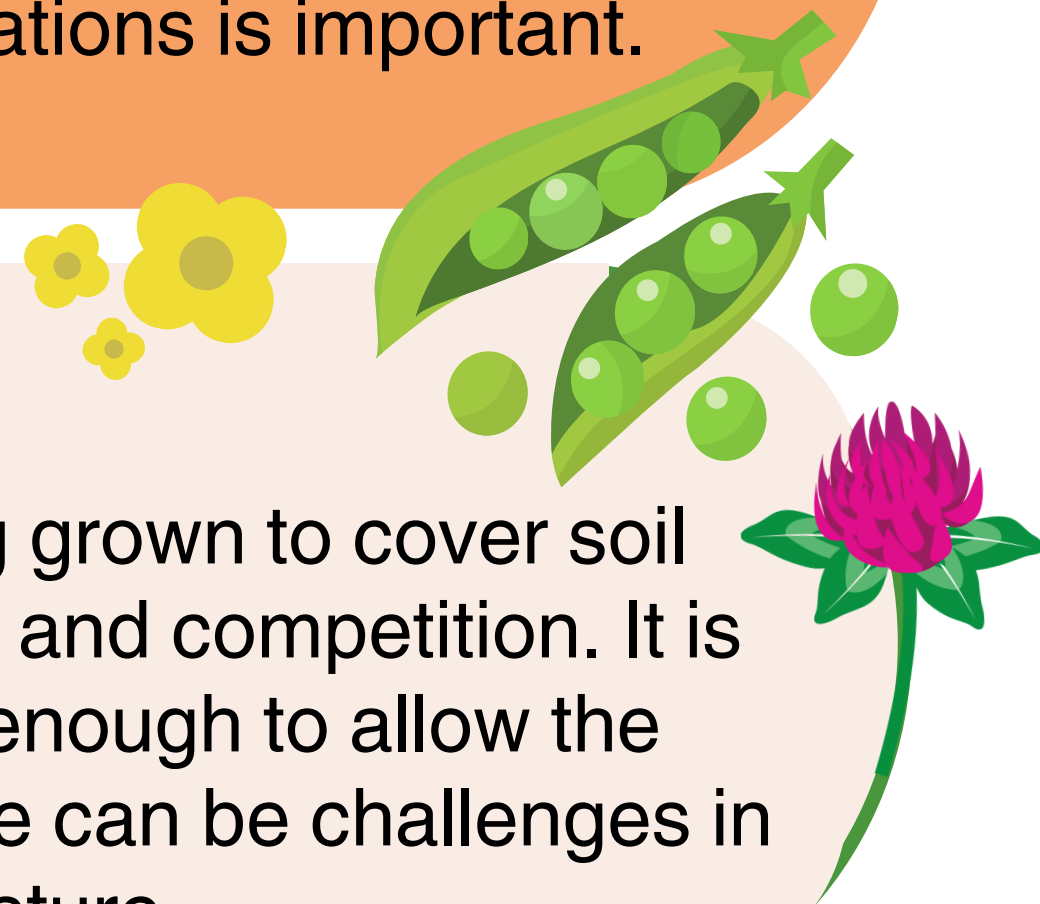
This involves manipulating the crop environment to make it less favorable for weed growth such as using diverse crop rotation, cover cropping, plant density and row spacing. Other cultural strategies include things like planting depth, planting speed, fertility rate and placement decisions.

## CROP ROTATION

Planting different crops in sequence on the same field, disrupts weed life cycles. Also, using crops with different life cycles (perennial vs. annual, fall planted vs. spring planted) is most effective. Weeds quickly adapt to consistent environments so diversity in cropping rotations is important.

## COVER CROPPING

Planting crops in the time between main crops being grown to cover soil surface and suppress weed growth through shading and competition. It is the most effective where growing seasons are long enough to allow the cover crop to accumulate substantial biomass. There can be challenges in Canada with short growing seasons and limited moisture.



## PLANT DENSITY AND ROW SPACING

Increasing the number of plants and modifying the spacing between rows to create a more competitive crop by minimizing the the available sunlight for weed growth. Plant density, in particular, shows consistent ability in research to reduce weed densities and biomass.

Contact Breanne Tidemann  
([breanne.tidemann@agr.gc.ca](mailto:breanne.tidemann@agr.gc.ca)) for more information.



FUNDED BY:



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