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NATURESCROPS
INTERNATIONAL

Regenerative Agriculture

Farmers are the custodians of their land and Natures Crops are proud to contract grow specialty crops with farmers who are as passionate about caring for the soil and the environment as we are. Regenerative Agriculture is one of the crop production practices that many of our growers follow, and we are looking to implement its principals across all our specialty crop production in the future.

For Natures Crops, Regenerative Agriculture Follows 6 core principles:

1. Minimize soil disturbance
2. Maximize crop diversity
3. Keep the soil covered
4. Maintain a 'living root' in the ground
5. Integrate livestock
6. Minimal use of synthetic inputs



At Natures Crops, sustainability, traceability, safety and reliability of the supply chain are essential for our specialty crop business, and our proprietary *Crop Assured 365*[®] (CA365) delivers this. However, we feel by incorporating principals of Regenerative Agriculture, it will closer meet our mission of being more engaged in how the natural products industry can take greater responsibility for its role in protecting the biosphere. Accordingly, we'll be incorporating the following best practices into our CA365 farming processes, each fitting into the core principles above.



Recognizing the importance of a healthy water cycle—managing water use, improving drainage and reducing run off, whilst conserving water use. Avoiding irrigation to crops during the cropping season, and cultivating fields across not down the slope to avoid runoff near to watercourses.

pH

Recognizing the importance of mineral cycles, and ensuring soil pH and mineral balance is optimized to reduce the need for fertilizer inputs. Ensuring soils are tested at least every 3 years.



Maximizing soil organic carbon through all available techniques, enhancing sequestration of CO₂ by not working soils where possible, leaving grass leys in the rotation.



Building farm biodiversity, by growing a range of crop species, and keeping field margins uncropped, unmown and attractive to animal and plant species, and to maximize pollinator levels.



Minimizing field travel, and combining activities to reduce passes with crop protection products.



Using crop rotations to ensure a good farm biodiversity, and plan to grow crops for Natures Crops in a place in the cycle where weed levels are low, and soil fertility is maximized.

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Being active members of Environmental Stewardship Schemes to promote on-farm environmental improvements.



Applying bulky organic residues and manures to improve soil structure and organic matter, and chop and incorporate straw residues from crops grown. Target 3%+ soil organic matter levels.



Building soil biodiversity including overall biology, fungi, bacteria and arthropods.



Let weeds establish in stubble post-harvest, and destroy as late as possible after harvest and pre-drilling.



Building soil fertility, organic matter levels and water holding capacity, to deliver strong, healthy crops for use in fossil fuel and marine oil replacement markets.



Keeping soil covered during the year, through active cropping, followed by cover cropping, and/or overwintering stubbles for spring crop production.



Reducing the dependency on external inputs by managing crop health through optimized establishment, and macro & micro nutrition.



Allow grazing livestock on the farm where possible (on mixed holdings), and prioritize livestock grazing of cover crops rather than chemical destruction.



Reducing soil disturbance, by using reduced tillage techniques, and establishing crops without the use of ploughing, maintaining stubble for as long as possible, and direct drilling seeds.



Reducing reliance on pesticides by using bio-stimulants and natural growth promoters to reduce disease incidence in the crop, and accepting background levels of non-competitive weeds which do not reduce crop yield and enhance biodiversity.



Accepting higher threshold levels of infections/pests before crop protection applications, and using inorganic fertilizers judiciously and at optimum levels for crop growth. Natures Crops International species are typically low input and sustainable - economically, and environmentally.



Using cover crops to improve organic matter content, soil structure and field drainage.

For farmers it is important that Regenerative Agriculture is seen as a positive step in managing both their land for the long and short term of the crop being grown, and without being seen as a barrier to business or burdensome. As such, Natures Crops liaises with all of our Crop Assured 365 grower partners to find the most practical ways to meet these 6 principles working within the current farm framework. This impactful partnership ensures that the biggest positive changes can be made to benefit our producers, our consumers and the planet.

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