



Practice Abstract N° 25

Weed management in olives in an organic system, Portugal

INTRODUCTION

A field trial was conducted in an organic olive orchard to evaluate three cover crop mixtures and two weed management strategies for their effectiveness in weed suppression. Cover crops were sown in December 2023 after a delay due to excessive rainfall, using an APV Direct Seeder.

MAIN RESULTS – OUTCOMES

- ❖ The six-species cover crop mixture (*Avena sativa*, *Lupinus spp.*, *Brassica rapa subsp. rapa*, *Secale cereale*, *Sinapis alba*, *Linum usitatissimum*) achieved the highest weed suppression and ground coverage compared to the single-species (*Secale cereale*) and three-species mixture (*Avena sativa*, *Lupinus spp.*, *Brassica rapa subsp. rapa*)
- ❖ The organic olive site had a thick layer of humid plant residues from previous cultivations, making shredding difficult and further hindering cover crop development



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PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The six-species mixture showed superior weed suppression due to species diversity. In similar conditions, diverse mixtures should be preferred
- 2 Delayed sowing due to wet conditions weakened crop establishment and weed suppression. Strategies for earlier seeding should be explored, including improved drainage or alternative sowing windows
- 3 Proper residue management, such as pre-mowing or light tillage, should be considered
- 4 Future trials should aim for termination at peak biomass for better weed suppression and soil coverage


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