

Monitoring Biomass for Use as Bio-Fuels

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Summary: Cellulose is seen as the next biomass for alternative energy production, especially ethanol. The residue from cover crops is seen as a possible source of cellulose. However, removing biomass from fields could prove detrimental to soil organic matter. This project was designed to monitor soil organic matter as it is affected by the removal of 0, 50 and 100% of rye cover crop residue. Data will be presented to show how much material can be removed from a typical field and the associated effect this has on soil organic matter.