

Green Manure (Field Surface Vegetation)

This method involves growing grass or other plants on agricultural land (bare soil) during fallow season to cover the ground and prevent the runoff of red soil caused by rainfall.

- It not only functions as a fertilizer and suppresses weeds, but also serves a role in preventing soil erosion.
- Green manure, also known as field surface vegetation, is said to be effective in reducing approximately 90% of red soil runoff.
- Fast-growing plants that can be ploughed into the soil to serve as fertilizer are used.

Type of Plants

The plants in the following table are used as green manure (field surface vegetation). Leguminous plants are commonly used.

Plant Name	Classification	Origin	Note
Crotalaria	Herbaceous Plant	India, Brazil	Annual plant
Sesbania	Herbaceous Plant	India	Annual plant
Fuki Beans	Herbaceous Plant	India	Annual plant
Oats	Herbaceous Plant	Central Asia, Armenia	Annual plant
Sorghum	Herbaceous Plant	Tropical Africa	Annual plant
Corn	Herbaceous Plant	Near Mexico and Central America	Annual plant
Guinea Grass	Herbaceous Plant	Subtropical and Tropical Africa	Perennial plant
Setaria	Herbaceous Plant	Subtropical and Tropical Africa	Perennial plant
Rhodes Grass	Herbaceous Plant	South Africa	Perennial plant
Mung Bean	Herbaceous Plant	India	Annual plant
Pigeon Pea	Herbaceous Plant	India	Perennial plant
Sunflower	Herbaceous Plant	North America	Annual plant

Plants suitable for Green Manure (field surface vegetation)



Crotalaria



Fuki beans



Pigeon Pea



Sunflower

How to plant?

Green manure (field surface vegetation) is applied by sowing seeds. Sowing can be done either manually ("hand sowing") or using seed-dispersing machine, making the process simple.

When to plant?

After harvesting crops such as sugarcane, green manure seeds are sown to prevent the runoff of red soil. Before planting crops such as sugarcane, the green manure is tilled into the soil (a process of turning the soil to incorporate the plants).