

Chart 11

A COMPARISON OF GROUND COVERS AND GREEN MANURES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annual or Perennial	Growth Habit	Uses
Butterfly pea	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	annual	climbing vine	ground cover
Beggarweed	<i>Desmodium gyroides</i>	annual	shrub	ground cover
Beggarweed	<i>Desmodium heterophylla</i>	annual	shrub	ground cover
Beggarweed	<i>Desmodium salicifolium</i>	annual	herb	ground cover
Calapo	<i>Calopogonium mucunoides</i>	either	trailing vine	green manure
Centro	<i>Centrosema pubescens</i>	perennial	climbing vine	ground cover
Indigo	<i>Indigofera hendecaphylla</i>	perennial	herb	green manure
Jackbean	<i>Canavalia ensiformis</i>	annual	bush	green manure
Kudzu, trop.	<i>Pueraria phaseoloides</i>	perennial	climbing vine	ground cover
Lablab bean	<i>Dolichos lablab</i>	annual	climbing vine	food, ground cover
Perennial peanut	<i>Arachis sp.</i>	perennial	trailing	ground cover, feed
Spanish clover	<i>Desmodium triflorum</i>	perennial	trailing vine	ground cover
Spanish clover	<i>Desmodium uncinatum</i>	perennial	trailing vine	ground cover
Sunn hemp	<i>Crotalaria juncea</i>	annual	shrub	green manure, fiber
Velvet bean	<i>Stizolobium/ Mucuna spp.</i>	annual	trailing vine	ground cover
Winged bean	<i>Psophocarpus tetragonolobus</i>	annual	climbing vine	food, green manure
Vigna	<i>Vigna hosi</i>	perennial	vine	ground cover
Vigna	<i>Vigna lutea</i>	perennial	vine	ground cover
Vigna	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	annual	climbing vine	food, green manure
Vigna	<i>Vigna vexillata</i>	perennial	trailing vine	ground cover

All of the plants mentioned in this chart can be used as feed for animals. However, cutting them for feed limits their effectiveness as green manures and cover crops. The distinction between green manures and cover crops is minimal, and often the two words are used interchangeably. The following definitions show the difference in emphasis of the two terms. Green manure crops are those grown for the purpose of incorporation when the plant is fresh and green (thus high in nitrogen), resulting in soil enrichment and a greater water holding capacity. Ground cover crops grow vigorously to outcompete weeds and provide a good soil covering and mulch. These crops are also good for soil improvement and erosion prevention.