



A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER

## SPECTRUM

### Cropping management factor (C) for crops and cropping systems

The cropping management factor for successive growth stages was estimated for different crops and cropping systems in Kota (south-eastern Rajasthan). Crop growth period varied between 60 and 70 days for leguminous crops (cowpea, blackgram, greengram and groundnut) and between 90 and 120 days for cereal crops (sorghum and maize). C value for leguminous crops varied between 0.3511 and 0.6058; its range is small for the crops, owing to their faster establishment. Leguminous crops provide good soil cover to minimize soil erosion. Among legumes, cowpea was the least susceptible crop to erosion (0.3511) and clusterbean was the most

erosive crop. The C value for intercropping ranged between 0.3084 and 0.3718, and maize-crop registered the highest C value of 0.5236, which was attributed to wider plant-to-plant and inter-row spacing. C factor, a proper vegetative cover, plays a vital role in minimizing soil erosion at a given location.

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