Mixing it up - green manures going wild

ORFC 2018
8 ha field crops, 0.7 ha garden crops, 2000 sq. m tunnels

100 different crops grown
The business

Veg box scheme and local sales
Farm walks, consultancy and seminars
Research and development

2 full time staff, 3 partners + summer extras
Festivals
Calcareous Sandy clay loam Clay content 18%.
Silt 32%
Sand 50%
Organic matter 4%
pH is 6.5
Phosphorus (mg/kg) (sodium acetate) 9
(Double lactate) 45
(Citric reserve) 170
Potash (Double lactate) (mg/kg) 120
Green manures advantages

- Improved soil structure
- Supply organic matter
- Improve nutrient availability
- Improve micro-organism activity
- Feed worms
- Suppress weeds
- Help reduce some pest problems
- Possible animal feed catch crops
- Can indicate soil conditions
- Disease control
- Pest control
Main fertility building

• Lucerne
• Red + white clover
• Grasses
• Yellow trefoil
• Wild flowers

Short season G, manures

• Trefoil
• S W Clover
• Vetch
• Crimson clover
• Phacelia
• Mustard
• Cereals
The field rotation

Year 1+2 Red clover. Cut and mulched

Year 3 Potato followed o/w G M

Year 5 Brassacas u/s GM

Year 6 carrot after leek, parsnip after onion

Year 7 S corn/Squash us lucerne/clover

Year 5 Alium intercropped clover. Leek u/s cereal
Relay sown green manures RSGM)

- Improves pest/predator balance
- Improves soil fauna and fertility
- Controls some weed species
- Over winter - protect soil
- Allows for soil stability
Relay green manures
Over winter ground cover
BIO-Fumigation
Tillage
Woodchip compost
Undersowing garden crops
Relay Green manures intensive cropping