Diversity in a crop rotation has many benefits. This plot contains flowering species—such as buckwheat and sunflowers—to attract pollinating insects. The vegetation also provides habitat for a large variety of other insects. Each of the plants in this plot have unique root structures to improve soil structure and capture nutrients. Diverse root systems are host to diverse biotic communities—the bacteria, fungi, nematodes, worms, etc. Increasing diversity is a key component in managing a farm for soil health.

Planted in July

Mixture (per acre)
Soybeans 15 lbs
Forage peas 4.5 lbs
Buckwheat 5 lbs
Sunflowers 5 lbs
Daikon radish 1 lb
Barkant turnip 1 lb
Corn 2 oz

Cost approx. $25/acre