

Preface

Increasing concerns about the influence of agriculture on water quality served as the backdrop for the conference on which this book is based. The Soil and Water Conservation Society and its Legumes in Conservation Tillage Systems Task Force saw the need to collect and disseminate new and old information on cover crops and their role in water quality. The result was a conference held April 9-11, 1991, in Jackson, Tennessee.

This publication is intended to summarize, augment, and extend the information presented at that conference. The papers presented herein include the latest information on the role of cover crops in water quality management, including reducing water runoff, soil erosion, agrichemicals lost in runoff, and nitrate leaching to groundwater.

The large number of cooperating and supporting agencies for the conference and this book is testimony to the importance and urgency of water quality problems and to the potential benefits of cover crop management. It is our hope that this proceedings will provide a base of information that can be used to improve water quality through soil and crop management strategies that use cover crop technologies.

The planning committee thanks the Soil and Water Conservation Society for sponsoring the conference and the many cooperating organizations and agencies for their support, including the American Society of Agronomy; Crop Science Society of America; ICI Americas; Land Improvement Contractors of America; Milan Experiment Station; Monsanto Agricultural Company; Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.;

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