

Contents

1	General Introduction	7
	1.1 Motivation	7
	1.2 Objectives	10
2	Publications	11
	2.1 Improving dual cover crop mixtures to increase shoot biomass production and weed suppression potential	11
	2.2 Strategies to develop simple multi-species cover crop mixtures to enhance aboveground biomass and quality	34
	2.3 Using High-Resolution UAV Imaging to Measure Canopy Height of Diverse Cover Crops and Predict Biomass	61
3	General Discussion	80
	3.1 Evaluation of agroecosystem services provided by cover crops	80
	3.2 Weed suppression ability of cover crops	82
	3.3 Aboveground biomass production is influenced by management and species identity	84
	3.4 Nitrogen accumulation and carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of cover crops	86
	3.5 Effects of species combination in mixtures on cover crop performance	87
	3.6 Measuring intra- and interspecific competition to optimize cover crop mixture composition....	88
	3.7 Interaction-based predictions and remote sensing for advancing cover crop mixture development	91
	3.8 General discussion - short summary	92
4	Summary	93
5	Zusammenfassung	96
6	References	99
7	Acknowledgements	112