INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEEDING RESIDENTIAL PACK OF CROWN VETCH

1. Plant in early spring or mid-August. Early spring is preferable. Crownvetch is not recommended for dense shade.

2. Adding new topsoil is usually not required. Apply seed to slopes as they are. If the area is weedy, sickle the weeds off 2 or 3 inches high and let them supply some of the required mulch. Loosen as much of the soil as possible, especially if it is hard packed or well sodded.

3. Apply lime to the area, if soil is known to be acid. A pH of 6.5 to 7.0 is ideal. If in doubt, you may apply ground agricultural limestone at a rate of 10 lbs. per 100 square feet. Crownvetch will not establish on acidic soil, it prefers a pH of 6.5 to 7.0. If the soil pH is unknown obtain a test from the establishment where this kit was purchased or from your local extension agent and adjust the soil accordingly with lime or sulfur.

4. Apply fertilizer but make certain it is low in nitrogen (first number in analysis should be 10 or less). Apply approximately 4 lbs. per 1,000 square feet.

5. If you want too speed germination, “leach” the Crownvetch seed. Place seed in a piece of cheesecloth or nylon stocking and soak in a bucket of water for 24 hours. Mix a handful of lime in the water prior to soaking the seed. Allow the seed to dry before proceeding to the next step (i.e. a few hours on a piece of cardboard).

6. When you are ready to seed, mix together in a container the Crownvetch seed, hard fescue, and the entire packet of inoculant. Add a little liquid with adhesive properties, such as sugar water to the mix; it will help the inoculant stick to the seed. Using excessive amounts of inoculant will not harm the seed in any way. Spread out the seed so it begins to dry, just enough so that the seed is easy to plant. Do not allow the seed to dry out completely.

7. One pound of Crownvetch, mixed thoroughly with one pound of hard fescue companion grass and one packet of inoculant, is sufficient for an area of 1,000 square feet. You can seed heavier to speed the rate of establishment.

8. Mulching the seed is very important. Cover the seeded area with 1 – 1½ inches of straw, or use Seed Aide (70 lbs. per 1000 square feet) after planting.

9. Be patient. Crownvetch starts slowly and in the early stages, grows slowly. If the procedures outlined above procedure have been followed, especially the inoculating and mulching, the area should be thoroughly and beautifully covered within a 1 – 2 year period.