



# CoverStory

by CoverCress, Inc

4Q /2018

CoverCress, Inc  
**100%**  
dedicated to  
CoverCress

## Introducing a new name, CoverCress, Inc.

Recently we announced our name change, CoverCress, Inc. (formerly Arvegenix) to reflect the advancement of our research of a brand new crop (also named CoverCress™). Arvegenix was founded to domesticate and develop the native plant pennycress into a crop. Going one step further, using old and new exciting plant breeding tools, has led us to the development of a brand new crop, CoverCress. We've kept features from pennycress like high seed yield potential, strong winter hardiness, seed with over 30% oil, maturity in May, and the ability to plant by only spreading on the surface. Those were the reasons we selected pennycress in 2013. CoverCress builds on these strong features with improvements to the grain quality to make the crop more valuable to farmers, processors, and the ultimate users of oil and meal.

CoverCress, Inc. is a company 100% dedicated to the development and commercialization of CoverCress. To learn more click here [www.covercress.com](http://www.covercress.com)

Bayer Growth Ventures (formerly Monsanto Growth Ventures) and Biogenerator co-led our \$2M follow-on equity investment round for continued development through the 2019 growing season. Other investors included founders, employees, BioGenerator, St. Louis Arch Angels, Cultivation Capital, Missouri Technology Corporation, Prolog Ventures, Prelude Ventures, and affiliates of Fulcrum Global Capital of Kansas City.



## What exactly is the new crop CoverCress?

The CoverCress goal is to provide fall and winter soil cover between corn harvest and soybean planting, while producing an oilseed crop. Specifically doing three things:

1. Enable farmers to grow a crop between corn harvest and soybean planting that is profitable, and fits with your existing agronomic system, whether that's fall tillage or no till, and harvested by the time you plant your last third of soybeans.
2. Provide winter and spring cover to hold soil and nitrogen on your farm. In fact, we believe about 1/3 the nitrogen CoverCress uses is scavenged from the leftovers after corn.
3. Produce a new low carbon source of oil for biodiesel and jet fuel, to grow those markets, plus offer a new unique low saturated food oil in a few years. The high protein feed meal will be great source of feed for Midwest dairy and swine markets.

This transformative crop, bred from multiple native pennycress plants, with non GM improvements in the oil and protein meal that are similar to that of canola, is called CoverCress. [www.covercress.com](http://www.covercress.com)

Since our 2013 beginnings, we have come along way. Today, CoverCress Inc., with its experienced leadership team and knowledge of agriculture, is using modern tools to bring in a new crop that breaks the paradigm of cover crops being costly long term investments to protect and build soil health. CoverCress brings the opportunity for growers to improve soil health, prevent erosion, and improve on-farm economics by producing three crops in two years.



**3 CROPS IN  
2 YEARS**



## Partnerships

CoverCress Inc. has established important partnerships with universities that have been conducting pennycress research for several years. These universities are: Illinois State University (ISU), University of Minnesota (U of MN)) and Western Illinois University (WIU). Advancements in pennycress genetics, breeding and agronomics coming from these universities have helped shape CoverCress as a new crop for the Midwest. In addition to universities, CoverCress Inc. also has a partnership with Benson Hill Biosystems (BHB), working on gene editing efforts.

Aside from technical research work, CoverCress Inc. has also worked with graduate students from ISU to widen their exposure to the startup and commercial company environments.

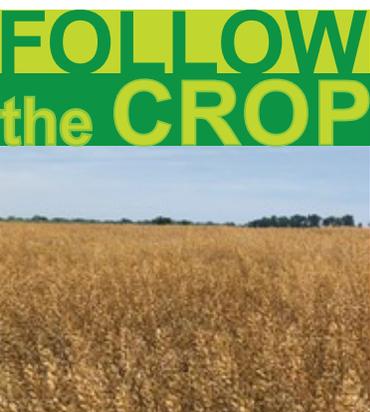
CoverCress Inc. has established critical partnerships for the day-to-day operations at the 39N center in St. Louis. Our partnerships include accessing plant growth and tissue culture at The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, lab space and people from BRDG Park, a St Louis Community College network, and Helix Center, a startup incubator space. Since 2013, these partnerships have been critical for CoverCress Inc. success.



## Events

The 2018 Van Trump Conference in Kansas City brought together over 1,000 farmers to engage with industry experts and innovative agriculture startups about innovations in agriculture. Jerry Steiner, CoverCress CEO, presented the CoverCress story, sharing product updates and company goals. During conference breaks, Jerry and Dr. Handel, CoverCress, Vice President Strategy and Operations, engaged with farmers and received feedback on the CoverCress project.

At the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) 2018 Conference in Chicago, Jerry held a press conference to raise awareness of CoverCress. He presented the company, its progress, and announced the company's name change to CoverCress, from Arvegenix, originally derived from the native plant whose scientific name is *Thlaspi arvense*. In his closing remarks, Jerry asked for partnership with farmers and farmer-reaching companies as we progress in 2019. The CoverCress leadership team was able to interact with leaders of many seed companies and other stakeholders across the industry.



## Highlight of exciting future plans

Farmer focus is our next big effort! This Fall in partnership with growers, our team planted over 20 fields, testing planting methods and conducting agronomy studies. We'll be talking with several hundred farmers this winter to gain more insights. If you have questions or ideas, we'd love to hear from you!

Do you want to be in the field to see our results? CoverCress is launching a new website feature called, "Follow the Crop." Through short monthly videos, we will provide footage of our planted fields and CoverCress' performance. CoverCress can be an important part of a Midwest farming system so growers can generate 3 crops in 2 years while keeping the main cash crops untouched.

[Follow our website for crop videos!](#)