

No-Till Fact Sheet

No-Till Helps
Improve Soil
Health and
Can
Increase
Crop Yield



Ozaukee County InterSeeder used as no-till drill into cover crop mix. Photo taken August 12, 2019.

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What is No-Till Farming?

No-Till farming is a conservation technique where all of a previous crop's residue is left on the soil surface after harvest. This is managed with specific tools like a conservation planter for row crops like corn or soybeans, or a no-till drill for more narrowly seeded crops like grains or cover crops.

Why Practice No-Till Farming?

Leaving the crop residue on the soil surface improves soil health by reducing soil erosion, soil temperature consistency, and adding soil organic matter. These measures can help boost crop yields. This farming technique can also cut fuel usage, reduce labor costs, and increase profitability.

Things to Consider When Planting No-Till

- Start with a small field/section or a less drastic change like strip, ridge or zone-till
- Add cover crops to improve soil health, provide nutrients, and increase soil moisture
- Plant according to soil conditions and not a calendar date