

Crop Residue Management

Description

Crop residue management is part of reduced tillage and continuous no-till systems and may be used with conventional tillage. All tillage operations are reduced and some crop residue is always on the soil surface. This residue helps shield the soil from rain and wind until the next crop can produce a protective canopy. Continuous no-till systems provide the best soil protection because the soil is not tilled and all residue stays on top of the ground. Seasonal residue management can be used with conventional tillage systems when crop residue is left in the fall to protect fields during winter.

Benefits

- Ground cover prevents soil erosion.
- Residue improves soil quality.
- Fewer trips across the field and less tillage reduce soil compaction and save time, energy, and labor.