



This photo shows soybeans being planted immediately following the harvest of small grain by the minimum tillage method—No land preparation



This photo shows Warner and Donald Madre observing young corn which they planted in soybean residue with no land preparation.

Minimum Tillage

Minimum Tillage refers to a variety of crop production systems employing a reduced or limited amount of tillage that utilizes plant residues for soil protection.

Crops are planted in undisturbed soil by preparing a narrow seedbed only wide and deep enough to obtain proper seed coverage. Planting can be made in killed sod, cover crops or crop residue. Contact herbicides replace major seedbed preparation while residual herbicides eliminates cultivation.

Minimum tillage is no longer an experiment. Techniques are supported by research and have been widely farmer tested. More and more growers are finding it easy and economical to use a method of planting crops that involves limited seedbed preparation.

Minimum tillage has several advantages. Production cost are reduced with only one or two trips across a field from harvest to harvest. On-farm tests showed a savings in fuel, labor, horsepower and repair cost over conventional planting.

Time is saved thus giving extra time to farm more acres and to do a better job of managing your

operations. Studies show that two acres of minimum tillage crops can be planted and sprayed in the time required to conventionally prepare and plant one acre.

Helps double cropping succeed by insuring good moisture at planting and utilizing growing time normally lost in seedbed preparation.

Soil moisture is saved by reducing runoff and evaporation and increased absorption and soil percolation of water.

Soil structure is improved by reducing breakdown of soil aggregates plus equipment compaction. The shading effect of surface residue and the resultant cooler soil temperatures during summer is conducive to organic increase.

Keeps cropping operation on schedules, lets you get into the field during optimum planting dates in wet years and keeps a wet fall from interfering with timely harvest.

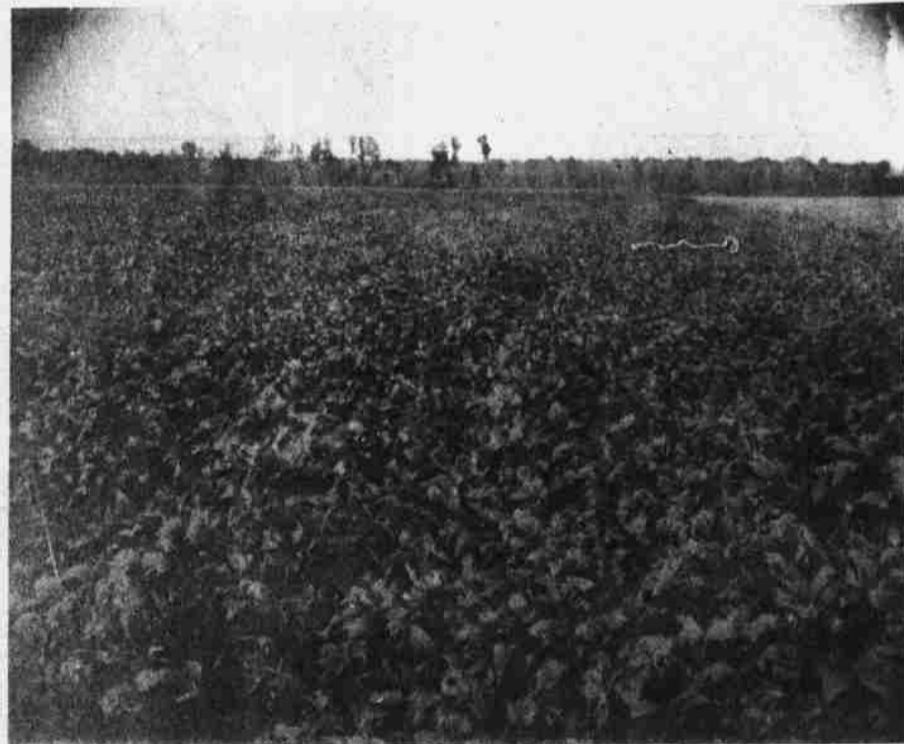
The protective mulch eliminates runoff of chemicals and fertilizer into the streams and rivers, plus efficient utilization gives full value of the materials on the field.

Corn ranks first and soybeans second in acreage

of crops grown by minimum tillage. Other crops grown by this system are being increased including grain sorghum and smallgrains.



The above photo shows the soybeans as they are getting above the height of straw stubble.



This photo shows soybeans when they have reached full growth.

Sudden Climate Change Can Hurt Camellia Bud

Buds falling from your camellias? It isn't unusual and it happens to the best of gardeners, because one of the main culprits is the one nobody has control over — weather.

"Bud abscission is the result of extreme or sudden changes in climatic or growing conditions, unfavorable to the plant as far as flowering is concerned," according to Henry J. Smith, extension landscape horticulturist at North Carolina State University.

Your choice of varieties can be a factor.

Smith said that some camellia varieties show an inherent tendency to drop their flower buds. Conditions that promote vigorous growth, such as extra heavy applications of fertilizer, may cause it. This often happens in late-flowering varieties as early growth begins before plants have finished flowering.

Other extreme changes in culture or care may contribute to the problem, such as insufficient watering, overwatering, poor soil drainage, exposure to cold or drying winds, spray injury, nematode infestation

and nutrient deficiencies.

The NCSU specialist said that many of the causes of bud drop can be eliminated by choosing midseason-flowering varieties, by avoiding those that are known to have a tendency to shed flower buds, by selecting a good planting site, and by giving close attention to cultural practices to avoid extreme changes.

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Special Friday

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox has proclaimed March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day. This date is the first anniversary of the day when the last American troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last American prisoners of war were freed.

National Commander Robert E.L. Eaton has called upon all members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to "Be Counted Again" observe the "one time only" event.

IN APPRECIATION

Words cannot adequately express our deep appreciation for the many kind and sympathetic acts that came to us at the time of our recent bereavement

Family of Mrs. Maggie Gay
(Mrs. Virginia Vick, daughter)

LEFTOVER TIP
Drain liquid from canned vegetables into small, freezable containers. Freeze until needed for adding to soups and sauces, suggests Rachel Kinlaw, extension food specialist, N.C. State University.

RENTED FARMS

U.S. farms that are partly or fully rented make up seven out of the 10 farm acres and two-thirds of the total market value of land and buildings.

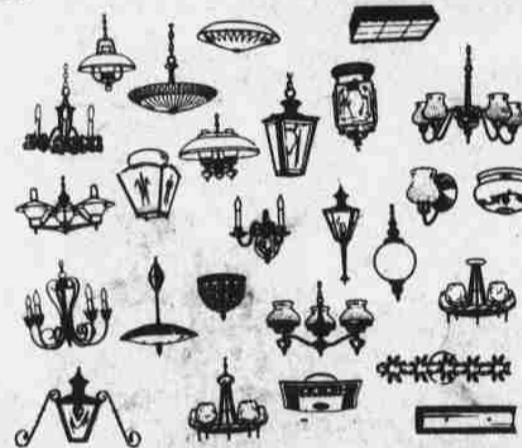
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