

Planter Available

Cost Can Be Saved By No-Till Farming

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Do you really need to turn under that cover crop or last year's residue? If you are planning to plant corn or soybeans, using no-till can save you time, soil and money. No-till involves planting in a narrow slot without disturbing the residue or mulch that's on the ground and using herbicides to control weeds. Residue covering 50 percent of the surface or more is needed for the best results.

No-till can cut soil erosion by half in some cases. The residue and mulch slow down runoff. This keeps topsoil in place, allows moisture to enter the soil, and keeps fertilizer and chemicals in the field where they're needed. In a dry year, the mulch protects the ground from overheating and losing moisture. Fields planted by no-till will show moisture stress later than conventionally tilled fields. This could allow you to irrigate later and less often. Other advantages of no-till include less labor and lower production costs (fuel, time, and equipment).

Double cropping is more effective with no-till. The next crop can be planted while the combine is still in the field. This gives the crop full advantage of the growing season. No-till double cropping is usually thought of with small grain-soybeans, but is also very effective with silage crops.

One problem you must face before planting no-till is weeds. Most weeds can be effectively controlled with herbicides and good crop rotations. Perennial weeds, Bermuda grass and Johnson grass, primarily, should be controlled in a field before beginning no-till. Modern herbicides do a good job when used properly and safely.

Cost-sharing is available for no-till planting through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Office in Warrenton. It is limited to no more than three years on a farm. Farmers must apply and receive approval before they begin planting.

The Warren Soil and Water Conservation District has a two-row no-till planter available for farmers who are interested in trying no-till. The planter is rented for \$2 an acre and can be reserved by calling the Soil Conservation Service in Warrenton.

The Warren County Cattleman's Association has a no-till grain drill that can be used to interseed pastures, seed silage or hay crops, and can handle soybean seed. To rent the no-till drill, contact Chet Maxey at the County Extension Office.

No-till offers many benefits and can be an important part of your crop rotation. For more information, contact the Soil Conservation Service, Warrenton, at 257-3836.



No-till corn planted in a small grain cover crop survives a dry summer better than conventional

tilled corn.

(SCS Photo)

For Better Living

Toy Purchase Can Spawn Questions

By Margaret J. Woods
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The after-holiday sales may be a good time to add to or replace your toys. Before you buy, however, ask yourself a few questions.

Why do children need toys? Play is natural to all children. It's the way they get acquainted with the world around them.

Properly chosen toys aid in a child's mental, social, emotional and physical development.

For whom am I buying? As children grow and develop, their toy needs change. How old are the children in your care? What is each one working on developmentally?

How wide is the age range in your group? Playthings appropriate for the child's age level interests encourage play for which the toys were designed and thus reduce potential accidents. In a group setting, however, you must consider whether a toy safe for an older child is unsafe for a younger one.

A child's favorite kinds of play become evident at an early age and tend to be favored throughout his childhood. There are, however, general developmental characteristics that suggest the types of toys suitable for children of different ages.

What toys are suitable for each age? A child's interest will usually carry through more than one age period. For example, a youngster who enjoys riding a tricycle when very young will likely continue to be interested in wheel toys right into the teens. This is true of such playthings as construction toys and sets, board games, books, paint sets, instruments and sports equipment. In the following tables, therefore, particular types of toys are initially listed within the age group in which interest in them is first apt to occur.

Under 18 months: Rattles, nursery mobiles, soft animals, squeak toys, crib-gym exercises, strings of big beads, picture blocks, nested boxes or cups, books with rhymes, pictures, jingles, push-pull toys, floating tub toys, musical and chime toys, pounding toys, stacking toys, small light wagon to pull, simple take-apart-and-assemble toys.

18 months to 3 years: First tricycle, wagon to get into, small low gym and seesaw, hobby horse, sandbox and sand

toys, balls of all sizes, child-size play furniture, play appliances and utensils, blocks of different shapes and sizes, simple dress-up clothes, dolls and doll furniture, simple puzzles, stuffed animals, take-apart-and-put together toys with large parts, clay, modeling dough, simple musical instruments.

3 years to 6 years: Additional dress-up outfits, puppets, larger tricycle and other wheel toys, storekeeping toys, cash register, toy phone and toy clock, housekeeping toys, farm, village and other play sets, items for bathing/feeding dolls, small trucks, cars, planes and boats, books and records, easy construction sets, coloring books, puzzles, trains and auto racing layouts.

6 years to 9 years: Board and tabletop sports games, fashion dolls and paper dolls, doll houses, toy typewriter, printing set, racing cars, construction sets, handicrafts, sports equipment, larger bikes, skates, scooter, electric trains, books, tops, and kits

Do you have a good variety of toys? Just as every child requires a balanced diet, so it is that every child needs a well-balanced assortment of toys that will contribute to his all-around development and implement the four main kinds of play:

Active/physical play to help build a strong, healthy body;

Manipulative, constructive, creative and scientific play to stimulate observation and encourage imitative and self expression;

Imitative, imaginative, and dramatic play to help a child stretch his mind and improve his understanding of the adult world;

Social play to help him

learn how to get along with other children, and to instill in him an appreciation of sportsmanship and the value of concentrating and thinking quickly and accurately.

More tips: Think before you buy. Don't impulse buy. Don't buy it if a homemade one will do. Read and keep informed of developments in toy safety. Teach children safe play with toys. Set good examples. Supervise toy play according to situation. Consider the child's age, personality, surroundings, and experience.

There are two activities you might want to try with your children for winter.

In the first, give them a ruler, yardstick, or tape measure and ask them to find an item in the room or house three inches long, six inches long, etc. Later when the children are familiar with measuring, they can measure various items to determine their length. Let them measure in inches, feet, yards as well as metrics. Several children can work together when measuring large items. If you like, you can record the measurements on a chart so the children can see how the measurements are written.

In the second game, let the children weigh various items on the bathroom or kitchen scales. It is fun to record these measurements, too.

You are invited: To a conference on day care issues, "Meeting the Challenges of the '80's Child" on March 28-30 in Raleigh.

Special features planned are general and small group sessions allowing participants to hear and discuss major day care issues; keynote

addresses by newly elected and appointed officials; display of day care exhibits and resources, and a forum on proposals recommended by Day Care Legislative Study Committee, some of which affect day care homes. For more information, call Kelly Vick, Office of Child Day Care Licensing in Raleigh at 733-4801.

Multinational Cars

Most cars now built in the United States have some foreign parts in them, usually about 10 to 15 percent of the total, according to several automotive organizations. A bill pending in Congress would set limits on the "foreign content" in cars made in the United States.

Weather Severity Is Planting Factor

From fall to early spring is the recommended time for planting trees and shrubs in North Carolina. If you want to identify the best time more narrowly, you will have to take location into consideration.

Ideally, shrubs and trees should be planted as early in the dormant season as possible. Down east this would mean fall. In the higher elevations of the mountains, it might mean early spring.

The severity of the winter is an important factor. In the higher elevations where the temperatures average much lower than down east, North Carolina State University agricultural extension specialists suggest waiting until early spring to make new plantings.

Where winter weather is less severe, fall or early winter plantings have advantages. First,

it allows plants to establish a root system in the new soil long before the hot weather of summer approaches.

There is root activity although the top of the plant is not growing. The long term performance of the plant is heavily dependent on how good a start it gets. If it can be planted early and develop a strong root system, next summer's heat and drought stresses will have less of an adverse effect.

Another advantage of planting as early as possible is the plant's need for supplemental water. Usually, you won't have to water as often, if the plant is planted in late fall or early winter as compared to spring and summer planting.

To prevent food poisoning, field dress, clean and chill the carcass of any game as soon as possible after killing.

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In The Garden

This Mimosa Plant Is Very Sensitive

This plant is so sensitive that when touched, the leaves will immediately close up.

It is easily started from seed and is a slow growing plant. After several leaves form on the seedlings, pinch the stem tip to promote branching and to prevent the plant from becoming leggy. This species of mimosa requires warmth, good light, moist soil, good drainage and plant food only in the spring and summer months.



At least 4 hours of filtered sunlight from any direction except north light is essential. Water the plant thoroughly but remove all drainage. Lightly clip or prune the plant to maintain the desired height and shape. Transplant to a larger pot whenever necessary.

The most common problems that occur with the Mimosa plant are over-watering and poor drainage. The plant will grow weak and leggy if the light is not bright enough and the leaves will scorch if placed in a draft or the air is too dry.

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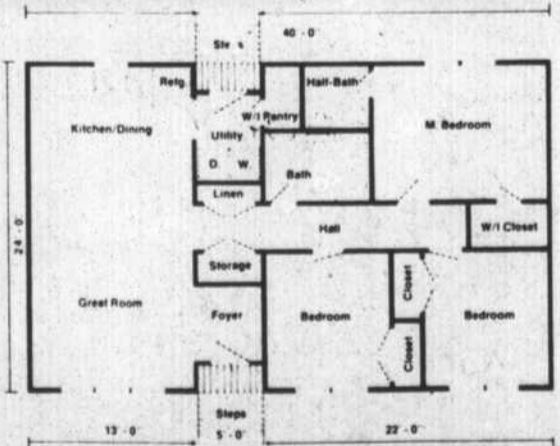
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PATTERN SKILLS

There are pairs of circles below. One circle in each pair has a pattern of X's, and the other circle has ruled lines. Measure ONLY with your eyes (no ruler or mechanical device) and see how quickly you can place the X's in the lined circle so that it will have the same pattern.