2024 MARYLAND TILLAGE ESTIMATES

(CORN, BARLEY, SOYBEANS AND WINTER WHEAT)

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Farmers were the earliest advocates of conservation and environmentalism. They have long recognized that the prosperity of their crops and farms hinges on the presence of fertile soil and uncontaminated water. Utilizing techniques that include minimal or no tillage can improve water infiltration, lower labor expenses, and mitigate soil erosion and compaction.

In response to the problem of soil erosion, numerous farmers have implemented no-till and limited tillage techniques. This publication presents estimations of the principal tillage strategies employed in the cultivation of corn, barley, soybeans, and winter wheat in Maryland.

The USDA/NASS Northeastern Regional Maryland Field Office, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, has gathered these estimates to provide the state's agricultural community with a reliable source of tillage data.

MARYLAND: TILAGE PRACTICES BY CROP, 2024

Crop	Total acres planted	No Till [1]		Minimum Till [2]		Conventional Till [3]		Double-Cropping [4]	
		Acres	% of total [5]	Acres	% of total [5]	Acres	% of total [5]	Acres	% of total [5]
Corn	490,000	278,320	56.8%	169,540	34.6%	42,140	8.6%	15,680	3.2%
Barley	31,000	13,609	43.9%	15,314	49.4%	2,077	6.7%	-	-
Soybean	480,000	329,760	68.7%	120,000	25.0%	30,240	6.3%	68,160	14.2%
Winter Wheat	325,000	176,475	54.3%	127,400	39.2%	21,125	6.5%	-	-
Total	**1,326,000**	**798,164**		**432,254**		**95,582**		**83,840**	

1 No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. 2 Minimum Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. 3 Convention Till - Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. 4 Double-Cropped – Two crops harvested from the same field for one year. Example: small grain harvest spring 2018, followed by soybeans, corn or sorghum harvest in the fall of 2018. 5 Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.