



2023 MARYLAND TILLAGE ESTIMATES (CORN, BARLEY, SOYBEANS AND WINTER WHEAT)

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The first conservationists and environmentalists were farmers. They've known for a long time that a thriving crop and a prosperous farm depend on healthy soil and clean water. Minimal or no tillage techniques can improve water infiltration, lower labor expenses, and lessen soil erosion and compaction.

Many farmers have addressed the problem of highly erodible soil by incorporating no-till and limited tillage techniques into their farming operations. Estimates for the primary tillage systems used to cultivate corn, barley, soybeans, and winter wheat in Maryland are given in this publication.

The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA/NASS) Northeastern Regional Maryland Field Office, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, has released these estimates as a single source of official tillage estimates for the state's farming community.

MARYLAND: TILLAGE PRACTICES BY CROP, 2023									
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	510,000	374,340	0.734	89,760	0.176	45,900	0.09	24,480	0.048
Barley	34,000	22,236	0.654	5,610	0.165	6,154	0.181	-	-
Soybean	490,000	379,750	0.775	68,600	0.14	41,650	0.085	125,440	0.256
Winter Wheat	340,000	179,860	0.529	107,440	0.316	52,700	0.155	-	-
Total	1,374,000	956,186		271,410		146,404		149,920	

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 Conventional 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.

