

2022 MARYLAND TILLAGE ESTIMATES

(CORN, BARLEY, SOYBEANS AND WINTER WHEAT)

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Farmers were the original environmentalists and conservationists. They have long understood that good soil and water quality are necessary for a successful crop and a productive farm. No-till or minimal tillage practices may save labor costs, reduce soil erosion and compaction, and improve water infiltration.

Numerous farmers have made no-till and minimal tillage methods a significant component of their farming operations to solve the issue of extremely erodible soil. This publication provides estimates for the main tillage systems grown in Maryland for corn, barley, soybeans, and winter wheat.

These estimates are made available by the Northeastern Region Maryland Field Office as a result of a cooperative agreement with USDA/NASS and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, who have united to provide a single source of official tillage estimates for the Maryland agricultural community.



MARYLAND: TILLAGE PRACTICES BY CROP, 2022

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	480,000	242,400	0.505	81,120	0.169	156,480	0.326	206,400.0	0.43
Barley	28,000	12,096	0.432	2,100	0.075	13,804	0.493	-	-
Soybean	490,000	295,470	0.603	61,740	0.126	132,300	0.270	58800.0	0.12
Winter Wheat	345,000	195,960	0.568	92,805	0.269	56,235	0.163	-	-
Total	1,343,000	745,926		237,765		358,819		132,600.0	

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 during 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.

