



Direct Seed & No-Till *Fact Sheet*

Where Profitability & Conservation Meet™

Direct Seed & No-Till Farming Operations

Direct seed and no-till are farming practices that are less invasive than conventional operations, which require several passes over the field, leading to soil erosion and loss of soil moisture and organic soil matter.

Direct seed & no-till practices typically fertilize and plant directly into undisturbed soil in only one to two passes over the field. The fewer passes offer producers numerous benefits to both their crops and their wallets.

Ecological Benefits

- Improved soil tilth
- Reduced soil erosion
- Improved water quality
- Increased moisture savings
- Improved air quality

Economical Benefits

- Reduced labor costs
- 50% reduction in fuel costs
- Decreased maintenance & repairs
- Increased crop yields

Are You Ready to Make the Switch?

The Spokane Conservation District is prepared to help producers make the switch from conventional tillage to direct seed/no-tillage farm operations. We have several resources available, including our low-interest loan program for eligible agricultural equipment, and our mentoring program that pairs novice direct seeders with experienced producers who will share their knowledge and expertise. To learn about our available resources, or for more information on direct seed and no-tillage operations, contact the District.

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The differences between direct seeding/no-till and conventional tillage are often obvious. These pictures were taken on the same day, after a week of rain.



Above: a field seeded using direct seeding operations. Straw residue from the previous crop remains on the field. The new crop can be seen emerging through the straw. Some water can be seen on the surface, but most has been absorbed where it will be available to the crop. There is no erosion, despite the heavy rain and field slope.



Above: a field farmed using conventional techniques. The rain hasn't been absorbed into the field. Instead, it has eroded top soil from the higher areas. The water has run down into a low area, creating a large muddy pool. Both the erosion and muddy pool will damage and potentially kill the crop. Water quality may also be impaired should the water find its way to a stream.

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“We’ve improved our soil quality and we’ve improved our water quality by keeping the water in the fields. As a farmer, ... I would never go back to a conventional drill.”  
—Chuck Schmidt, Spokane County Direct Seeder for 10 Years