

Options for a first year No-till and Cover Crop cropping system

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Are you interested in no-till corn this year? No-tilling into sod is a great way to get into a no-till/cover crop system. The following chart is composed of management guidelines that we think will give farmers the greatest chance of success based on what we have seen in the field. This sheet is meant to act as a guideline and is not comprehensive. The system that you choose will ultimately be as unique as the farm itself.

Contact your local Extension office for more information and guidance on how to change over to this new cropping system.

*The knee test is helpful to determine if a soil is dry enough to plant no-till. When on your knees, if they get wet, the land is probably too wet and you risk sidewall compaction and poor germination

No Till into grass sod



Apply cover crop



Spread Manure



Remove first cut of hay at the end of May

THEN / OR

No-till plant "Short Season" corn into living sod as soon as soil moisture permits (do the knee test*)



Apply an additional 30lb N to compensate for lack of tillage mineralization



Spray herbicide 7 to 10 days after harvesting first cut hay, or at time of planting if not harvesting hay

Broadcast 25lb/ac annual ryegrass with side dress fertilizer if no residual herbicide

OR

Broadcast 112lb/ac winter cereal rye with Helicopter or highboy in August if adequate soil moisture

OR

Broadcast and incorporate or drill 75lb/ac winter cereal rye as soon as possible after corn harvest in early-mid September

Inject liquid manure with injector shanks, disks, or aerway after corn harvest in early-mid September

OR

Surface apply manure (3,000-7,000gallons/ac. for liquid) after corn harvest in early-mid September

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First year no-till into sod EXAMPLE

Are you interested in no-till corn this year? No-tilling into sod is a great way to get into a no-till/cover crop system. The following example is what we think will give farmers the greatest chance of success based on what we have seen in the field. This sheet is meant to act as an example of one possible cropping system. The system that you choose will ultimately be as unique as the farm itself.

Contact your local Extension office for more information and guidance on how to change over to this new cropping system.

Month	April	May	June	July	August	September
Planting			No-till plant 92day RM corn into grass stubble as soon as soil moisture permits			Plant cover crop winter rye immediately after corn harvest
Harvest, Herbicide, or Tillage		Remove first cut hay at the end of May	Spray herbicide 7 to 10 days after harvesting first cut			Harvest corn in the beginning to middle of September
Manure/Fertilizer			Apply additional 30lb N at planting to compensate for lack of soil mineralization	Apply fertilizer at side dress according to PSNT		Spread manure within one week after cover crop

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First year no-till into sod **PLAN**

Using the example above, write down your plan for no-till and cover cropping into sod. Specify the RM corn you plan to plant, anticipated planting and harvest date, planned herbicide program, the type and quantity of fertilizer/manure, what cover crop you plan to plant and how it will be applied.

Contact your local Extension office for more information and guidance on how to change over to this new cropping system.

Month	April	May	June	July	August	September
Planting						
Harvest, Herbicide, or Tillage						
Manure/Fertilizer						



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