

# New no-till booklets available for Md. farmers

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Two no-tillage "primers" for corn and soybean production have just been added to the inventory of free publications available from county offices of the Cooperative Extension Service throughout Maryland.

One is titled 12 Key Steps to Profitable No-Tillage corn Production (Agronomy Mimeo No. 33); the other is 10 Key Steps to Profitable Double-Cropping No-Tillage Soybean Production (Agronomy Mimeo No. 48).

Both publications came off the presses in November. They are being made available free to Maryland farmers attending county and regional winter educational meetings sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service for crop farmers around the state.

Five Extension specialists and research workers from the University of Maryland's agronomy department at College Park were involved in preparation of the no-tillage mimeos.

Three of them spoke at the recent five-county Southern Maryland Crops Conference held recently in Mechanicsville. They were James R. Miller, agronomy

department chairman; V. Allan Bandel, Extension soils specialist, and Ronald L. Ritter, Extension weed control specialist.

Miller devoted most of his presentation at the southern Maryland educational event to reviewing basic concepts of no-tillage grain production, as spelled out in the two recently published mimeos. He emphasized that "you have to do things right when you use no-till crop production."

For instances, lime application is even more important with no-till than with conventional tillage. A pH (measure of soil acidity) of 6.5 is imperative for no-till corn production in order for surface-applied herbicides to be most effective.

Miller commented that no-tillage work got under way about 20 years ago on the University of Maryland research farms. He admitted that "15 years ago, we really did not know how to grow no-tillage corn. One problem was that we let the rye cover crop get too high. Now we know that it should be killed (with herbicides) at about 18 to 30 inches in height, before the corn emerges."

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Double-cropped Essex soybeans stand like rows of soldiers in barley stubble on the Eastern Shore. In 1976 about 25.5 percent of Maryland's 290,000 acres of soybeans were produced in this fashion by the no-till method.

By 1981, the figure had risen to an estimated 35 percent on 360,000 acres, according to William J. Kenworthy, associate professor of agronomy at the University of Maryland in College Park, PA.

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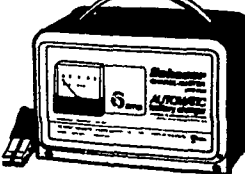


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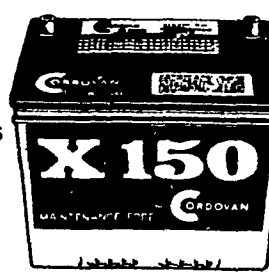


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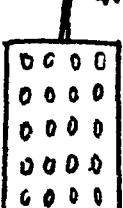
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