

## Strip-till

### Overview

Strip-till is a conservation system that combines the residue conservation benefits of a no-till system with the seedbed preparation advantages of conventional tillage. Because special equipment is required for strip-tillage, understanding what's involved can help you determine if it's the right practice for your fields.

### What you should know

- Strip-till disturbs only the soil that will contain the seed row. A grower using strip-tillage can take advantage of the warm soil in early spring, while still reaping the benefits of an undisturbed residue area between the rows, such as reduced potential for erosion. Along with a well-aerated seedbed and good seed-to-soil contact, strip-till gives germinating plants an advantage over plants in a no-till cropping system.
- Strip-till rows are usually about 8 - 10 inches wide. Many machinery manufacturers have developed specialized strip-till equipment to allow for tilling a narrow zone along with placing fertilizer in a deep band in the tillage strip. Real-time kinematic (RTK) autoguidance equipment is needed to place the seed in the middle of the strip for maximum fertilizer usage.

### Action steps

1. **Select an appropriate herbicide program:** Because no tillage will be used in the areas between the stripped tillage zones, it is important to use a burndown herbicide program to control any early emerging weeds.
2. **Review fertilizer placement:** Place fertilizer 6 - 8 inches below where the seed will be planted to avoid fertilizer burn damage to the seedling. Roots will grow directly into the fertilizer band placed by the strip-till applicator.
3. **Understand the importance of timely moisture:** It's important to get enough rainfall or moisture through irrigation to refill the soil profile after the field has been strip-tilled and before planting.



*Strip-tillage takes advantage of the warm soil in early spring, while still reaping the benefits of undisturbed residue between rows.*



### 30-Second Summary

- Strip-till combines the benefits of no-till with the advantages of conventional tillage and lets growers take advantage of earlier planting.
- Strip-till does require special equipment.
- Managing herbicide, fertilizer and moisture are crucial to a successful strip-till program.

### NOTES:

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For more information, contact:



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