

NO-TILL FARMING IN THE NT

No-till farming is any agricultural practice that substitutes conventional cultivating and ploughing for farming processes that cause minor or near zero disturbance to the soil structure such as direct drill sowing.

A key advantage of no-till farming is its influence on soil health. When soil is ploughed and cultivated, it is exposed to oxygen, organic matter is lost, and trapped carbon essential for soil health is lost. No-till farming helps to preserve organic matter, nutrients and water within the soil, resulting in a more resilient and healthy soil structure for more productive crops.

With the Northern Territory's variable climate, no-till farming can be enormously beneficial. However, as with all agricultural practices there is a trade-off, and finding the right balance can be difficult.

Advantages of no-till farming

- Moisture conservation and water infiltration
- Increased soil organic matter and soil humus
- Reduced soil temperature
- Reduced risk of erosion
- Improved soil biology
- Increase resilience against climate variability
- Fuel Savings
- Higher yield potential

Disadvantages of no-till farming

- Learning a new management practice
- Planning consideration
- The upfront cost of new machinery
- Potential issues with weeds, associated with a reliance on herbicides
- Nutrient stratification
- Possible compaction issues

Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) is working with farmers and land managers to strengthen soil knowledge and improve soil management across the Northern Territory.



HEALTHY SOILS HUB

This project contributes to the NT NRM Plan



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