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Weed Control

Michigan State University

Cooperative Extension Service

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## No Till Corn: 4

# Weed Control

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Success with no-till depends on good control of existing vegetation cover and weeds throughout the growing season. Unlike conventional tillage, there is no option of cultivation if the chemical program proves inadequate. Vegetation control requires more skill in the no-till system.

No-till can be used on sod or meadow fields and on crop residue fields such as corn or wheat. Control of weeds may require different chemical tools for each situation.

Existing sods are the greatest challenge to good vegetation control. Previous management of the sod is

important. If the sod crop has been clean harvested, vegetation control and corn establishment may be more successful than where the crop residue has been allowed to accumulate. Residues can interfere with the physical establishment of the corn plant. Excessive trash absorbs soil-applied herbicides, interferes with the desired operation of the fluted coulter, prevents proper placement of the seed, and most importantly, results in poor closing of the soil over the seed to give the desired seed-soil contact.

Soil type, organic matter, sod density and moisture condition after treatment influence sod kill. On dense sods, increase the gallonage of water to 40-50 gal per acre to obtain thorough coverage and wetting. On a clean crop field, where the vegetation cover is not dense, 20-25 gal per acre is adequate.



Cultivation is not an option in the no-till system if the chemical program proves inadequate.

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