

Table 3. Evaluation of growing direct seeded onions in a minimum tillage (MT) system using wheat and barley cover crops, Elba, 2011: Ground coverage and dry weight of cover crop residue.

Date:	Visual Estimate of Ground Coverage (%)			Cover Crop Residue Dry Weight (g/25ft ²)		
	April 15 (pre-plant)	May 10 (pre-emergence)	Sept 13-14 (harvest)	May 10	June 15 (2-leaf)	Sept 13-14 (harvest)
cv. Festival:						
Conventional	-- ¹	-- ¹	24.6 b ²	-- ¹	-- ¹	43.7 b
MT-Wheat	--	--	34.3 a	--	--	113.5 a
MT-Barley	--	--	5.7 c	--	--	8.9 c
p-Value ($\alpha=0.05$)	--	--	0.0000	--	--	0.0000
cv. Safrane:						
Conventional	--	--	29.6 a	--	--	41.4 b
MT-Wheat	--	--	19.6 b	--	--	53.3 a
MT-Barley	--	--	4.3 c	--	--	11.7 c
p-Value ($\alpha=0.05$)	--	--	0.0000	--	--	0.0000
Variety (pooled across tillage types):						
Festival	--	--	21.5	--	--	55.4 a
Safrane	--	--	17.8	--	--	35.5 b
p-Value ($\alpha=0.05$)	--	--	NS³	--	--	0.0001
Tillage Type (pooled across varieties):						
Conventional	0	11.0 c	27.1 a	8.6 c	135.0 b	42.6 b
MT-Wheat	50	25.6 a	26.9 a	351.3 a	403.3 a	83.4 a
MT-Barley	30	19.1 b	5.0 b	253.5 b	151.2 b	10.3 c
p-Value ($\alpha=0.05$)	--	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Variety*tillage interaction p-value ($\alpha=0.05$)	--	--	0.0074	--	--	0.0000

¹On May 10 and June 15, ground cover evaluations per tillage type were taken from across varieties.

²Numbers in a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different, Fisher's Protected LSD test, $p < 0.05$. ³NS: not significantly different according to Fisher's Protected LSD test, $p > 0.05$.