

ROLLER CRIMPING

DALE RHOADS, OJO CALIENTE, NM SUMMER 2012- SARE RESEARCH GRANT

Weed Control with Overwintered Crimp Killed In-Place Mulch

Crimping or Roller Crimping is a technique that grows a cover crop over the winter, then kills that cover crop by 'crimping' the stems during flowering, leaving an in-place mulch. This technique: suppresses weeds, keeps the soil in place all year, cuts down on water needs, builds soil, saves tillage costs saving gas and oil costs, cuts down on weeding costs.

For more information go to: savesoil.info, dr.rhoads@ymail.com, 505-231-5954 or your local State Extension Educator.

2013 SARE GRANT



July pic with Weed Free Crimped area on the left.

On the left is the weed free cover crop crimped area, (except for some potatoes emerging on far left.). In the the right is weedy areas that are regular tillage, with the cover crop incorporated into the soil before planting. This area is weeded with conventional weeding

methods. In these trials the cover crop is Winter Rye. This in-place mulch is then planted into providing a mulch that holds the soil in place and suppresses weeds. After the crop is harvested, the next year mulch is then planted during late summer/fall.



CRIMPED AREAS ON THE RIGHT AND CENTER, CONVENTIONAL TILLAGE ON THE LEFT.



DURING CRIMPING IN MAY This picture shows the rye/vetch cover crop being crimp killed in late May, right in time for transplants of frost sensitive seeds and transplants.



THIS PICTURE RIGHT AFTER TRANSPLANTING IN MAY The crimped killed cover crop is on the left appearing like a straw mulch. Tilled areas on the right.