Farming with the Wind

**Best Management Practices For Controlling Wind Erosion and Air Quality On Columbia Plateau Croplands**

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Years of intensive cultivation by itself has depleted soils on the Columbia Plateau of organic matter and plant nutrients. Uncontrolled wind erosion accelerates the process. Managing eroded soil for the purpose of improving soil quality is an extremely slow and expensive process. It makes far more practical and economic sense to apply best management practices that will prevent wind erosion and soil quality decline than to attempt to reclaim soil after the damage is done.
All of the BMPs presented in this Handbook aim to control wind erosion and dust emissions, and over the long-term, improve soil quality through the use of conservation practices such as cover crops, surface residue management, and reduced tillage methods. Practices that avoid the use of implements such as moldboard plows and discs that bury crop residues or green cover, and that invert and mix the soil, will not only help to control wind erosion but will also slow the oxidation of soil and biomass carbon to carbon dioxide.