

Soil Quality: Comparison of Conventional Winter Wheat/Fallow Cropping to Native Grasslands in eastern Colorado. (S05-petersen160728-Poster)

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Abstract:

Near surface soil physical observations were made in the spring and fall, 1997 - spring 2002 on important soils of a farm that practices conventional non-irrigated small grain culture. Measurements include steady ponded infiltration rate, Ksat, Singleton Blade strength, and a morphology index based on structure, rupture resistance, crust, and surface-connected macropores. The infiltration rates for cultivated sites approximate the rates attached to the Hydrologic Groups of the series. The grass sites had a 2 to 5 fold higher infiltration and a 2 to 3 fold higher morphology index than the cultivated sites of the same soils.

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