

AIM: What soil conservation practices help minimize soil degradation?

Soil Conservation Technique	Description	How it Helps with Soil Conservation
1. CONSERVATION TILLAGE	minimal-till (loosen soil only) or no-till (machines inject seeds)	- reduces soil erosion (less loosening of soil)
2. CONTOUR PLOWING	plant crops in rows using the contour of the land so that the rows act as little “dams”	- reduces runoff and soil erosion - retains more water
3. TERRACING	convert steeper sloped plains into a series of steps/platforms	- reduces runoff and soil erosion - retains more water
4. WINDBREAKS	plant rows of trees as a wind barrier	- reduce wind erosion of topsoil and damage to plants
5. COVER CROPS (a type of intercropping)	crops specifically grown to hold soil in place	- reduces soil erosion - suppresses weed growth
6. CROP ROTATION	plant crops like tobacco, corn, and cotton in a field one year and then legumes there the next year	- restores nutrients to the soil - reduces losses to pests because of target changes
7. POLYACRYLAMIDE (PAM)	water-absorbent chemical gel	- increases soil water retention - reduces runoff and soil erosion