No-Till Native American Garden Reduces Work and Provides Answers

The Situation
Gardeners on the Nez Perce Reservation and surrounding areas seek labor efficiency per unit area of garden production.

Our Response
We worked cooperatively with tribal members and the USDA/Nez Perce Tribe Food and Nutrition Services to establish a direct-seed (no-till) teaching, demonstration, and research garden.

Our goals
- To implement and demonstrate no-till garden practices.
- To reduce time and labor necessary for successful garden production.
- To introduce a new garden crop, Edamame edible soybeans, to north Idaho.
- To implement and demonstrate no-till sweet corn production.
- To provide educational gardening programs for citizens of the Nez Perce Reservation and north central Idaho.
- To provide fresh garden produce for the USDA/Nez Perce Tribe Food and Nutrition Services.

Program Outcomes
- No-till garden was successfully established using half the time and labor of conventional garden.
- No-till sweet corn varieties were successfully grown and evaluated.
- No-till square meter garden was successfully grown and evaluated.
- No-till Edamame edible soybeans were successfully grown and evaluated.
- Educational no-till garden tours were provided.
- Fresh garden produce was provided to the USDA/Nez Perce Tribe Food and Nutrition Services.

The future
- Continue educational gardening projects in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe.
- Promote labor saving no-till gardening practices.

Cooperators
USDA/Nez Perce Tribe Food and Nutrition Services
UI/Nez Perce County Master Gardeners
UI/Nez Perce County Extension Horticulture Associate

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