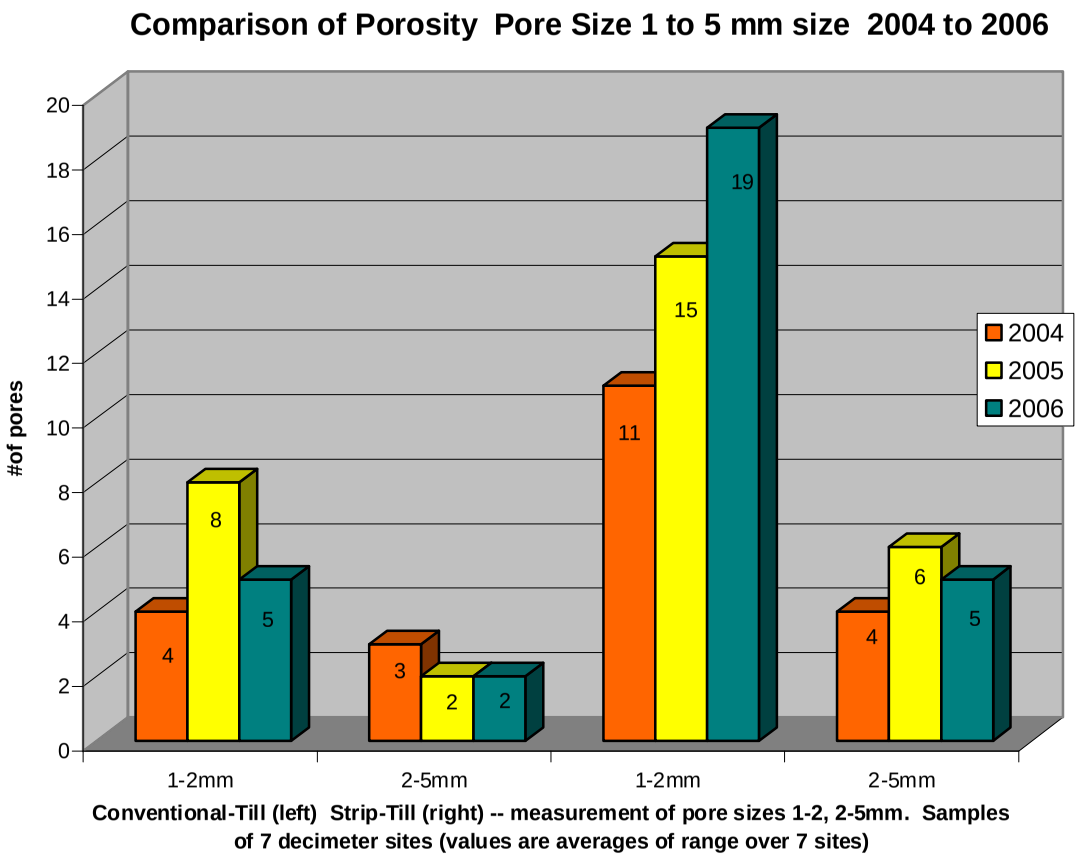

Strip Tillage can improve Soil Quality characteristics - Porosity

A typical measurement of Soil Quality is porosity, which is an indicator of water infiltration and downward movement. We have used a modified version of USDA-Soil Survey methods of counting pores with a 10X hand lens to count pores over a 10cmx10cm area - 1 decimeter.

These just visible to the naked eye sized pores hold water and gases such as oxygen and carbon dioxide for root uptake. The 3 years of our observations indicate that the pores in the 1-2 mm size are just over 1.8-3.8X more in total number in strip-tilled soils compared to the conventional till. The 2-5 mm pores are 1.3 to 3X more, strip-till to conventionally tilled.

These measurements were made in mid-late April of each year.

May 2006