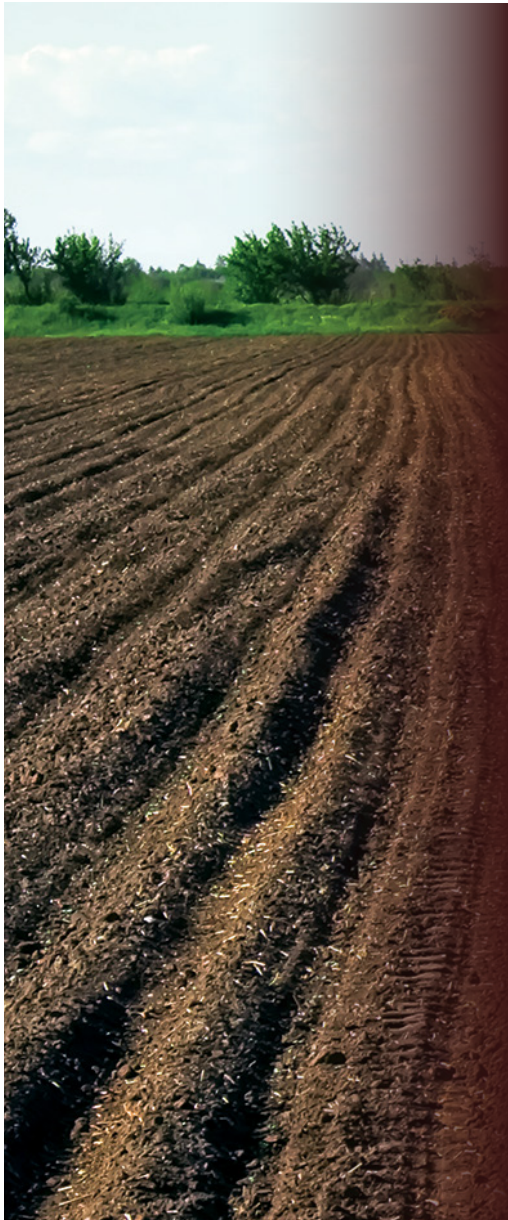




Watch out for soil compaction

As spring planting approaches, it's always good to be mindful of soil compaction. More densely packed soil particles limit pore space for water, nutrient and air movement. Compaction can make it harder for roots to develop and increase risk of oxygen deficiency, denitrification and root disease. Compacted soils can also lead to increased time needed for germination and reduced growth. In corn, plants grown in compacted soils may be up to 2 feet shorter than plants grown in non-compacted soil and the damage can last for years.¹

The best way to avoid damage is to stay out of wet fields. When that is not possible, precautions include properly inflating tires, managing loads and limiting in-field traffic. Remediation practices to improve soil structure also can be applied.

¹ DeJong-Hughes, Jodi. "Soil Compaction." University of Minnesota Extension. 2018. <https://extension.umn.edu/soil-management-and-health/soil-compaction#choose-the-right-equipment-1189512>.