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Effect of Different Types of Mulches on Reduction of Soil Evaporation

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ABSTRACT

In a laboratory study on evaporation from soil columns measured in the absence and presence of radiation, a 5 cm thick layer of aggregates having diameter greater than 4.7 mm (coarse tilth) proved to be the most effective barrier against evaporation. The least effective barrier was a 5 cm thick layer of particles having diameter less than 1 mm (fine tilth). The loss of water from the coarse tilth column was upto 18 and 11% less than the other columns at the end of nonradiated and radiated evaporation runs, respectively. Radiation caused an increase in the rate and amount of water lost from all the soil columns.