This guide has been developed as part of the Improving Soil Health and Reducing Wind Erosion project of the Murray Catchment Management Authority, which has been undertaken by Mallee Sustainable Farming through funding from the Federal Government’s Open Call Bid funds.

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To prevent wind erosion, a minimum of 50% ground cover is needed at all times. When there is no crop or pasture present, such as over summer or when paddocks are fallowed, stubble is the primary source of ground cover in Mallee paddocks.

The ability to visually interpret ground cover levels is important for many farm management decisions including:

- grazing management
- herbicide application
- seeding equipment set up.

This photographic guide is designed to assist farmers and advisors to monitor the ground cover provided by stubble under different stubble management situations. The photographs depict a range of ground cover levels (20% through to 90%) in situations where stubble was left standing, rolled, chained or cultivated.

Each photograph has been taken at eye level. A 50 x 50 cm quadrat has been placed in each photograph to provide a reference point.
20% Standing Stubble
30% Standing Stubble
40% Standing Stubble
50% Standing Stubble
60% Standing Stubble
70% Standing Stubble
80% Standing Stubble
20% Rolled Stubble
30% Rolled Stubble
40% Rolled Stubble
50% Rolled Stubble
60% Rolled Stubble
70% Rolled Stubble
80% Rolled Stubble
90% Rolled Stubble
20% Chained Stubble
30% Chained Stubble
40% Chained Stubble
50% Chained Stubble
60% Chained Stubble
70% Chained Stubble
80% Chained Stubble
90% Chained Stubble
20% Cultivated Stubble
30% Cultivated Stubble
40% Cultivated Stubble
50% Cultivated Stubble
60% Cultivated Stubble
70% Cultivated Stubble
80% Cultivated Stubble
90% Cultivated Stubble

There is no photographic example available for cultivated stubble at 90%