



Planting Depth

Overview

Planting corn at the proper depth relative to soil conditions helps ensure the crop gets off to a good start. Corn seed planted too deep can experience emergence problems resulting in a non-uniform stand with a potential need for replanting, particularly if soil is cool and soil moisture is high.

What you should know

- Planting corn at the proper depth helps ensure many growth factors:
 - proper germination and development
 - optimum seed-to-soil contact
 - more uniform emergence
 - top yield potential
- To help ensure uniform germination and emergence, check soil moisture levels prior to planting. Plant into adequate moisture at a minimum depth of 1½ inches, making sure overall field conditions are adequate for proper placement.
- When planting in heavier-textured soils, corn should be planted at a depth of 1½-2 inches, and never more than 2½ inches deep. Planting corn in lighter-textured soils, which can dry out more quickly, may require deeper placement up to 3 inches, depending on soil moisture and field conditions.
- For consistent seed placement and uniform emergence, operate the planter at the proper speed and apply appropriate down pressure on the row unit based on the soil conditions.

Action steps

1. **Minimum planting depth:** Plant corn seed at 1½ to 2 inches below soil surface to allow the seminal root system to develop, provide nutrients to the germinating seed and aid standability later in the season.
2. **Planting depth procedures:** To help ensure proper seeding depth and even emergence, operate the planter at the proper speed, match seed size to the seed plate or disc air pressure and use appropriate down pressure on the row unit.



Operate the planter at the proper speed to help maintain proper seeding depth across a field.



30-Second Summary

- Plant corn at the optimal depth—generally 1½-2 inches—to promote successful growth.
- Soil moisture levels can change the appropriate planting depth.
- Operate your planter at the proper speed for consistent seeding depth.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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