



Planting large seed

Overview

Planting larger seeds creates challenges that can be solved with basic management tips. Pay particular attention to settings and adjustments on your planter.

What you should know

- Many corn seed meters are singulated, not volumetric like meters for other crops, and are therefore capable of handling small, medium and large seed sizes.
- Ground speed is especially important when planting large seed. As ground speeds increase, large seeds are more likely to be missed by plates or fingers, resulting in skips. This likely will show up on your monitor as a population reduction. Increasing your population settings may appear to alleviate the concern, but it does not actually address skips or missed planting opportunities.

Action steps

1. **Inspect meters and adjust accordingly:** No matter your meter type—plate and wheel, finger pickup and brush, or air and vacuum—adjust finger tension, brush settings, plate size, singulator settings and baffle settings depending on the seed size and your planter make and model.
2. **Apply additional lubricant:** Because large seeds require more talc or graphite lubricant to ensure proper seed flow, apply a higher amount as specified by the manufacturer. Environmental conditions such as high humidity may also necessitate more lubricant to prevent bridging.
3. **Adjust air pressure settings:** Consult your planter operator's manual for air pressure settings. Large seeds normally require higher air pressure to keep seeds on the planter plates.
4. **Carefully manage ground speeds.** Reduced speeds ensure more accurate delivery and spacing of large seeds.



Growers must accurately adjust planter settings before planting large seeds.



30-Second Summary

- Most planters can be calibrated to accommodate large seed, but it's important to make management adjustments to have planting success.
- Consult your planter operator's manual to properly calibrate plates, tension air pressure and more.
- Carefully monitor ground speed to avoid skips.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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