



Checking planter settings

Overview

Maximizing yield starts with correct planting, and correct planting starts with adjusting the planter to the proper settings. Follow these steps to check planting equipment before you hit the field this spring.

Action steps

- 1. Start with a clean planter:** Check for old seed in the seed hoppers or tubes. Remove any foreign material that may have accumulated over the winter. Read the owner's manual and perform standard maintenance.
- 2. Adjust disk openers:** Replace any disk openers showing more than ½ inch of wear. Worn disks cause a W-shaped seed slot instead of the desired V-shaped slot.
- 3. Monitor row cleaners:** Row cleaners should gently sweep the residue, not remove the soil.
- 4. Calibrate seed meters:** Correct calibration will reduce the probability of skips or dropping double and triple seeds.
- 5. Replace seed tubes:** Worn seed tubes can curl inward, catching seeds. This causes uneven seed placement and prevents the seed from falling to the bottom of the seed furrow.
- 6. Tighten bushings and parallel linking:** This reduces row unit bouncing, which causes improper seed placement. Look across your planting units from one side to check for uniform height.
- 7. Lubricate drive system:** Lubricate all chains and grease fittings, including transmission chains. Do this daily for best results.
- 8. Level the planter in the field:** Make sure the toolbar is parallel to the soil surface when the planter is in the ground and running.
- 9. Adjust closing wheels:** Adjust closing wheels over the disk openers mark. The bottoms of the closing wheels need to be 1.5 - 2 inches apart.
- 10. Check depth gauge wheels:** Depth gauge wheels should run tight against the disks and firmly press on the soil surface to gauge the seed depth.



Check planter settings annually to ensure proper planting and a good stand.



30-Second Summary

- A strong yield begins with good planting.
- Check and calibrate your planter before hitting the field.
- Simple maintenance can help ensure seed moves through the planter properly and hits its mark in the ground.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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