



Drone Technology

Overview

Agriculture technology is always advancing. Drone technology makes it easier for farmers to monitor crops. An aerial view is useful for managing a large number of acres and observing from above can limit damage to fields.

What you should know

- Drones are also referred to as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).
- Most drones are either rotary or fixed wing. A rotary style drone is similar to a helicopter, while a fixed wing drone looks like an airplane. A hybrid drone has both rotary and fixed wings.
- **Rotary Drones** are identified by the number of rotors (propellers). For example, a quadcopter has four rotors. Rotary drones are excellent for scouting field operations. A quadcopter can take off and land vertically from field lanes or parking areas. Rotary drones are easy to maneuver across fields and can hover over problem areas.
- **Fixed Wing Drones** work like airplanes, using lift and drag to stay aloft. Most fixed wing drones have only one propeller. They can generally stay aloft and reach greater speeds than rotary drones, which allows them to cover greater acreage. Fixed wing drones require space to land, similar to an airport runway.
- Many popular consumer drones come with their own cameras, which are good for photography or scouting. Drones advertised for measuring field crop health may be fitted with specialized cameras.
- Some drones may need additional parts, such as remote controls, tablets and software to properly fly them. Cameras may also need additional parts, including a global positioning system (GPS) to tag photos and a light sensor to correct for varying weather conditions.

<http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/types-of-drones-for-field-crop-production/>



Drones, such as this quadcopter, give farmers new ways to keep tabs on their crops.



30-Second Summary

- Drones, or UAVs, make it easier for farmers to monitor their fields.
- Rotary and fixed-wing drones are the most common; each offer different advantages for scouting.
- Most drones come with cameras or can be fitted with specialized ones.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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