

Large Seed Soybeans

Overview

Summers with high heat and drought conditions can produce soybeans with increased seed size for the next growing season. These larger seed sizes, ranging from 2,000-2,750 seeds per pound, require more management to ensure accurate planting densities. Understand seed size and properly prepare the planter to be ready for seed size challenges before planting begins.

What you should know

- Seed sizes vary, so visit your local seed dealer to learn the range of seed sizes you will be working with at planting.
- In some cases, very large seed sizes will not adequately flow through metering devices, causing reduced plant densities or improper spacing.
- Prepare your equipment for planting with larger seeds. Planter manufacturers usually provide an alternative seed disc or plate with larger cells to accommodate seed size. Consult the planter manufacturer or owner's manual for disc and plate recommendations.

Action steps

1. **Check pressure settings:** Larger seed requires more PSI to pull the seed through the planter unit. If you're using an air or vacuum planter, the pressure settings may need adjustments.
2. **Apply lubricant:** Use adequate talc or graphite lubricant as specified by the equipment manufacturer. When applying, incorporate the lubricant as seed hoppers are filling—rather than placing all of the product on top—for a more uniform application and better seed flow. Environmental conditions such as high humidity may necessitate additional lubricant to prevent bridging.
3. **Carefully monitor ground speed:** At speeds of 5 miles per hour and slower, the seed disc cells populate more evenly and will result in fewer multiple seed events.



Soybean seed size can impact spacing and plant density.



30-Second Summary

- Large seed sizes require more management to ensure proper planting densities.
- Prepare your planting equipment to accommodate larger seed by using proper seed plates and lubricant, and by checking pressure settings.
- Keep ground speeds under 5 MPH for even seed distribution.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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