From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The second step in achieving

your planned population is to

match the seed to the seed plate.

To obtain the planned plant

population you need to have a 100

percent cell fill of the seed plate.

In selecting the correct seed

plate, check the seed plate

recommendation on your bag of

seed corn. Even small variations between seed and seed plates can

result in serious planting errors.

planter for the desired planting

rate using the information found

checking of the adjusted planter

over a distance equal to a known

portion of an acre. This distance

may be calculated or taken from

a table similar to the one below

which is based on 1-200th of an

Row Spacing Distance to Drive

30"

population.

130'8"

87'1"

72'7"

68'9"

65'4"

62'3"

From this simple check several

1. Note the number of kernels

dropped per row. This figure

averaged and multiplied by 200

should equal the planned plant

things may be observed:

in your owners manual.

The third step is to adjust your

The fourth step involves the

The article for this week was prepared by James W. Hilton. teacher of agriculture at Penn Manor High School, Millersville.

Well boys, spring is right iround the corner and it will soon be time to put all those well-laid plans into operation for top yields for the 1973 corn crop. After all those hours you've spent calculating crop acreages, soil capabilities, plant populations, fertilizer requirements, pesticide uses seed, variety and equipment needs, don't get caught behind the eight-ball with a poorly adjusted planter.

Tests have shown that planned plant populations and actual field populations can cut that margin of profit severely and at most times may be attributed to planter failures. So let's get that planter out and get ready to plant following these six easy steps:

After you have set your plant population goals and checked the planter for worn or broken parts, locate and read the owners manual which came with your planter The owners manual tells vou how to adjust your planter to obtain the correct population It is also an excellent guide for determining planter speed for a given planting rate. Do not exceed the maximum planting speed recommended in the manual If you do, the seed plate will turn too fast for accurate planting and uniform kernel

Field tests have shown that an



James Hilton

increase of two miles per hour over recommended planter speeds may reduce initial plant populations by more than 2,000 plants per acre. Planting speeds may be determined by driving your tractor between two markers spaced 176' apart while observing the time required to cover the distance. The following table may be used to convert the time in seconds to miles per hour.

Time to Drive 176' Speed

102 seconds	1 mile per hour
60 seconds	2 mph
40 seconds	3 mph
30 seconds	4 mph
24 seconds	5 mph
20 seconds	6 mph

7 mph

8 mph

2. Note the spacing of the kernels which should be uniform. 3. Note the condition of the

kernels dropped - cracked kernels indicate the wrong size planter plates.

4. Check planting speed and make necessary adjustments. 5. Insure your planned plant

population by allowing about a three percent overage in calculating the seed drop.

The fifth step is to make a field check. In doing this, dig out several feet or row and note the kernel spacing and compare this with the spacing found in the previous check. Make necessary adjustments to achieve the desired population.

The sixth and final step is done after the plants have emerged and is an important step to be used in figuring the next years plan During this final step count the number of emerged plants in a given length of row (table 2) and compare it to the planned population and the final harvest population (found when making that all-important yield check.)

OK, let's get out that planter and clean it up, adjust those plates, and shoot for top yields from that acre.

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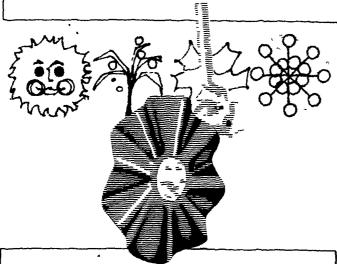
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15 seconds



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