

# Get that planter ready for job ahead

CHICAGO, Ill. — With the planting season at hand, now is the time for getting that planting machine ready for the task ahead.

Modern planters are designed to place the seed into the ground accurately with speed and simplicity, according to International

Harvester planting specialists. The operator needs a basic understanding of how his planter functions so he can then properly care for a few critical areas of the machine, they add.

When preparing to plant any crop, there are three key areas to consider: tires, seed openers, and seed selection mechanisms.

Plant population will vary depending upon tire size, tire pressure and soil conditions that affect tire rotation. Tire sizes and sprocket settings must be coordinated when calculating desired plant populations.

A simple solution to matching planter tires to the population chart requires a piece of rope about three feet long. With the planter loaded with seed and fertilizer and ready to go to the field, wrap the piece of rope laterally around a planter tire through the wheel rim opening so it makes a ground mark with each forward revolution.

If the chart guide is based on a tire size that travels 86 inches with each revolution, and the distance between the rope marks is 90 inches, for example, a field will be

underpopulated with seed. To determine what the population is going to be, simply divide the desired 86 inches of travel, by the 90 inches of travel the tire is making and multiply this by the desired population— in this example — 26,000. The equation reads 86 times 26,000 divided by 90 equals 24,844 actual plants per acre. The key factor is 86 over 90 or .955 percent of your desired population. This is approximately 5 percent less than desired or some 1,200 plants.

Refer to the plant population chart and find a sprocket setting that is close to 5% higher than the desired population (27,000 to 27,500). Use this new setting. You will know you are to plant at 5 percent less than this figure, or close to the 26,000 plants per acre you desire.

If you find that the population rate is still off, then there is a more complicated problem elsewhere in the system. But first, make the tire revolution measurement with the planter fully loaded as this will more than likely establish the correct setting. One such calibration of the planter drive

wheels to the chart should suffice for the planting of the entire crop.

The seed opener's whether they are runners or the double disk type, should be checked carefully for wear, obstructions, and proper function. This is a very critical area which determines the proper placement of the seed in the row, and any stoppage or malfunction has a direct effect upon the desired plant population. So, be sure to make the repairs indicated.

The third critical area on all planters is the seed mechanism. It should be checked for worn and broken parts. All parts should function properly.

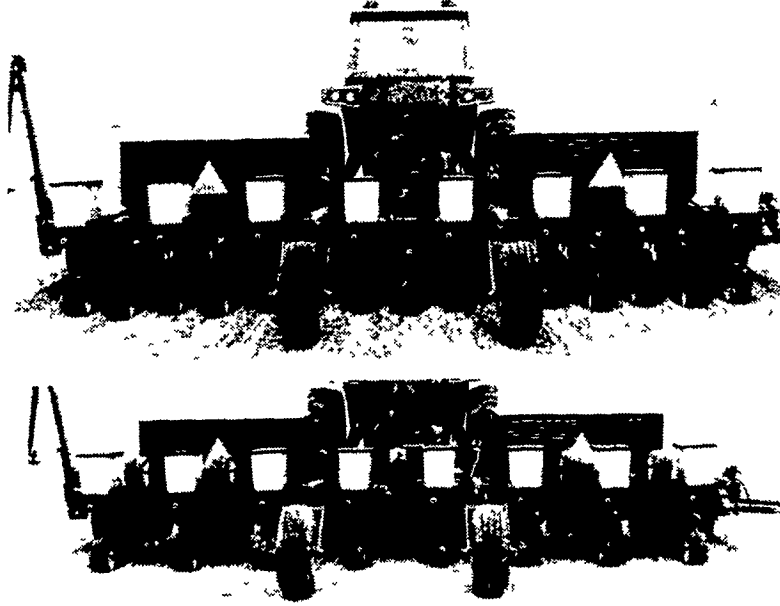
Plate-type: Worn or sticky cut-off pawls and knockout rollers should be replaced or corrected for free movement. Seed plates should be checked for wear or damage.

Plateless-type: Check for worn or broken parts such as fingers and springs. Proper operation of such parts is essential. Remove and clean all built-up foreign materials from these mechanisms. Follow the recommendations of the operator's manual for the frequency of inspection.

Air-type: Check the seed tubes for foreign material or potential stoppages. These may be cleaned by simply pulling a piece of cloth through the tube in a manner similar to cleaning a gun barrel. Check for damaged or poor fitting seals that would cause air pressure leakage. Inspect the seed cut-off brush assembly for wear and replace if necessary.

The increased productivity of big modern machines is what today's farmer demands so that he can make his own available hours more productive.

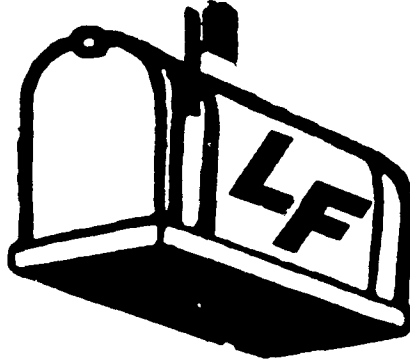
This short span of time available for planting probably yields the biggest dividend of any operation in the crop year, IH specialists explain. That's why it's so important to have that planter in top condition before it goes to the field, they conclude.



International Harvester's 800 Series Early Riser Corn-Soybean Special is the first integral dual-purpose air planter. In photos, planter is set for thirteen 15-in. soybean rows (top) and eight 30 inch corn rows (bottom). For corn planting, five units are locked in non-working position.

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