



MAY 2009

Welcome to the 2009 growing season – underway despite cool temperatures in most areas.

Seed

Royal Hybrid® planting seed deliveries have begun and will continue over the next few weeks. Several growers have been calling regarding planting their sunflowers in the very near future. Keep in mind that **sunflowers will not germinate properly if soil temperatures are below 50 degrees**. Currently, soil temperatures are variable with some in the mid 30's to low 40's. These are inadequate temps for good germination.

Seed supplies look good this year, but remember our recommendations for planting are a seed drop of 17,500 seeds per acre. Seed deliveries are being calculated at a seed drop rate of 18,000 seeds per acre for the 1121 (5.5 acres/bag) and 17,500 seeds per acre for the XL (5.7 acres/bag). Set and check your planters accordingly prior to going to the field to plant your crop.

We will have extra seed available for the 1121 and XL, in the event you run short due to improper planter settings or acreage changes. Just call if you have any additional seed needs.

Seed Returns

Please contact us **before the end of June** if you have any seed to return. Bags that are full and unopened may be returned for a credit in the amount of the purchase price.

Planting

Virtually all of our seed is treated with Cruiser™ DM Pack which provides some control for downy mildew, many seedling diseases, and some insects, including wireworms. We strongly suggest using a flow-enhancing graphite product. **J.D. vacuum planters need a talc-based product** for moisture control and lubrication.

Planting depths should range from 1 to 1¾ inches deep. If dry topsoil is present, you can plant as deep as 2 to 2½ inches. Planting depths in excess of 2½ inches can result in stand loss, especially if there is a hard, driving rain before emergence. In the event of a hard rain, a rotary hoe or spring tooth harrow may be needed to enhance emergence. The confection varieties we are using can be planted as late as June 5-10, depending on your location.

Proper seed placement in the soil and seeding rates are vital to the establishment of the desired stand.

Therefore, correct planter settings, seed plates, planter depths and seed spacing should be checked prior to and during actual planting. Plate planter's show greatly increased accuracy when speeds of 3 to 3.5 MPH are maintained. Plate-less planters (finger type or vacuum) are much more accurate at speeds of 4.5 to 5 MPH rather than 5 to 6 MPH. When using a plate planter, use graphite to increase planter plate life and assist in seed flow through the planter box.

As you head into the spring season, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help you produce the best! And let us know if you would like to receive our Grower Bulletins directly via e-mail.

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