



APRIL 2010

Welcome new growers and welcome back for those of you that have grown for CHS Sunflower in the past!

Royal Hybrid® planting seed deliveries have begun and will continue over the next few weeks. Please keep in mind that **sunflowers will not germinate properly if soil temperatures are below 50 degrees**. Currently, soil temperatures are variable with some temps in the mid 30's to 40's which are inadequate for good germination to occur. We have calculated most of our seed shipments **to plant 17,500 seeds per acre or 5.7 acres per bag** in eastern areas and tapering **down to 14,000 seeds per acre or 7.1 acres per bag** in drier western areas. Please set and check your planters accordingly prior to going to the field to plant your crop. Seed of other varieties grown under a CHS Sunflower contract should also follow these seeding recommendations.

Planting

Some growers will see their seed has been treated using the new **Idol™ Sunflower System**. It will offer added protection against downy mildew, plus protection on a broad spectrum of diseases and insects that attack both the seed and seedlings. We strongly **suggest using a flow enhancing product**. John Deere 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 we receive 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 planters show greatly increased accuracy when speeds of 3 to 3.5 MPH are maintained. Plateless 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, graphite should be used to increase planter plate life and assist in seed flow through the planter box.

Planting Seed

In the event that you run short due to either improper planter settings or acreage changes, please contact us regarding any additional seed needs.

Seed Returns

Contact us **before June 30 with your seed returns**. Bags that are full and unopened may be returned for a credit in the amount of the purchase price. For growers using our totes, if they have been opened they **cannot** be returned for credit.

As you head into the growing season, don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help you produce the best! Call us at our main number at the Grandin office is 701-484-5313, or more directly as below.

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