

Seeding Made Simple

Technotill simplifies a seeding system. Art Wocknitz was looking for an economical way to simplify his seeding system when he switched to the Technotill Seeding System in 2004.

In an early spring seeding trial, the southern Alberta grain and oilseed producer did a test section, installing Technotill on three shanks, on his 45 foot wide, Flexicoil 820 air seeder. He wanted to assess the performance of the narrow openers and unique Technotill packer with sideband. He liked how well it worked, and converted the rest of his air seeder to Technotill that spring.

"Our air seeding system was outfitted with shovel openers and packer wheels", says Wocknitz, who crops about 1500 irrigated and dryland acres near Magrath, south of Lethbridge. "I didn't like the moving parts with the packer wheels, the shovels were creating too much soil disturbance, and it took a lot of horsepower to pull the drill as well."

"I also wanted to see how Technotill would work in sod, so decided to do a trial, seeding canola, in a field of alfalfa and grass that I had sprayed out the previous fall."

I came back to have a look at the trial a few days later, at the start of the normal growing season. I could see that there had been excellent seed placement and a good stand of canola, so I converted the rest of the air seeder to seed the 2004 crop."

Wocknitz hasn't looked back over the past 5 growing seasons. He's seeded wheat, barley and canola under a variety of growing conditions and soil types ranging from lighter sandy soil to heavy gumbo. And he's seeded grass seed mixtures for a neighbour to establish new hay stands.

"We've always used 12 inch spacing on the air seeder and sometimes you wonder if we would have better stands or improved yield if the row spacing was narrower," he says. "But we have combined crops for neighbours who use seven and nine inch spacing and we can see no difference."

Along with being a well-built system, other key features of Technotill which appealed to Wocknitz was the minimum soil disturbance and simplicity of the system.

While seeding conditions on his irrigated acres can be controlled, Wocknitz says he makes sure he seeds into moisture on his dryland acres. "Regardless of whether I seed shallow or deeper, the pack is always ¼ inch above the seed," he says. "I get very good seed-to-soil contact, and because I'm seeding into moisture we get very uniform germination."

Wocknitz has outfitted his seeding system with a liquid fertilizer kit. Liquid nitrogen is banded through the Technotill packer after the seedrow is packed. Fertilizer placement is slightly higher than the seedrow and to the side. Other nutrients, such as granular phosphorus, is placed in the seed row.

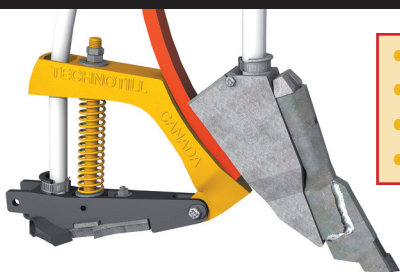
"The Technotill system works well with all crops in all conditions," says Wocknitz. "One tip I will suggest is to make sure they are properly installed at the outset. For proper seed placement and depth control, you need to make sure everything is level to begin with. I'd suggest you park the cultivator tool bar on a concrete pad in the yard, make sure the cultivator is level and then install Technotill. This is particularly important for seeding crops such as canola or grass."

For more information on the Technotill seeding system phone 780-352-9890 or visit the company website at: www.technotill.com.

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