

Technotill Gets Seed Placed, Leaves Rocks Where They Are

Changing the boot and opener system on his air seeding system has helped Dan Chescu seed directly into sod, and even poplar roots, while at the same time leaving rocks where they lay.

Chescu, who along with family members crop about 1,800 acres of grains and oilseeds, near Roblin, Manitoba converted their John Deere 610 air seeder to the Technotill seeding system in 2009, in hopes of finding a better way to get crops seeded without disturbing rocks. The change has afforded him a simpler, low disturbance, one-pass seeding system that produces excellent crops under a wide range of conditions.

"We have really been impressed with how well this has worked not only in sod and stubble, but even on some land that was logged and then brushed," says Chescu. "It is a one-pass system that does an excellent job of placing seed, minimizes soil disturbance and the crops have been excellent too."

Chescu had been looking for an opener system to replace the sweeps and single shoot set up on their airseeder that was equipped with on-row wheel packers. They had to make two passes - one to band fertilizer in the fall or early spring and then another to come back in to seed. .

"You'd get the crop seeded but then you'd have to spend a few days picking rocks too," he said. "With the Technotill system, we can get seed and fertilizer placed in one operation, and there is very little soil - and rock - disturbance."

Chescu first used Technotill for the 2009 seeding season on a longtime hayfield being converted to wheat. Although he sprayed the field with glyphosate in the fall of 2008 and again just prior to seeding, the wheat did struggle due to competition from the grass.

"The seeding system did a great job, but we just hadn't done as good a job as we should have in controlling the hay stand," he says.

But they also that spring seeded part of another quarter section of hayland to Roundup Ready canola and the extra application of glyphosate made the difference.

"We sprayed the field and started seeding two or three days later while the alfalfa was still green," he says. "But then we made an in-crop application and with that and a good rain the crop really came nice."

In 2010, Chescu seeded Roundup Ready high erucic acid rapeseed into hay stubble that had been sprayed out with glyphosate the previous fall. The combination of the two herbicides controlled the grass and legumes and produced an excellent oilseed crop.

One other somewhat surprising experiment, was to use the Technotill system to direct seed Invigor canola into land that had been logged and brushed.

"It was only about 50 acres, but the area had been logged a few years ago and then grew back into some fairly thick poplar," says Chescu. "My dad went in with a Cat and sheared it off in the winter, and then in the spring we sprayed it with glyphosate and then seeded canola. It was an excellent stand. We were really quite impressed. The in-crop application of Liberty kept the poplar suckering under control."

In more average sod and stubble seeding, Chescu makes one pass with the Technotill system to apply about 300 pounds of granular fertilizer, which is placed just above and to the side of the seed row, while wheat is seeded about an inch deep - or to moisture. The Technotill packer plate packs about 1/4 to 3/8 inches of soil on top of the seed.

Chescu follows a similar system with canola although it is seeded shallower.

"It is almost fool proof," says Chescu. "You can place the seed deep or shallow as you need to be at moisture, but then with the packer plate you only have about a quarter inch of soil on top, so seeding depth isn't an issue."

"We've really liked what we've seen with it so far," he says. "We didn't have the real extreme moisture in our area as they did in some parts of Manitoba, but it was wet enough. We actually had a fairly good seeding window followed by 15 to 18 inches of rain in the summer. We were lucky to get the crop in with one pass in the time we had, and if we had had to make two passes to get both fertilizer and seed on, we would have been delayed and we would have been into some wet conditions, so timing was important."

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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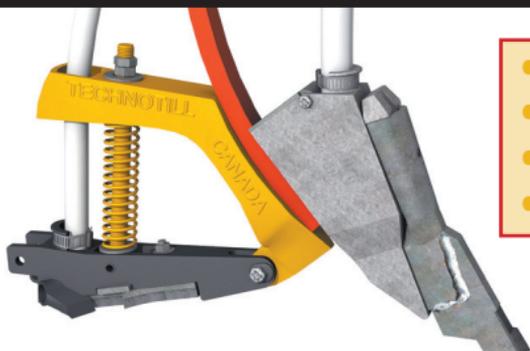
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