

Technotill did the job for Battle River research projects

Proper seed placement over a range of seeding conditions is a critical part to making a fair comparison of varieties and treatments.

After one season of using the Technotill seeding system on hundreds of research-sized plots, across various soil types in four counties, a central Alberta applied research association, says it was pleased with the performance the Technotill system delivered for its 2009 field trials.

Although the seeding tool is only five-feet wide, when you have 2,500 mini-fields that have to be seeded consistently and accurately, the proper seeding system is important, says a spokesman for the Battle River Research Group (BRRG).

"We were very pleased with how the seeding system performed," says Alvin Eyolfson, manager and field crop agronomist for the BRRG, which is headquartered in Forestburg, Alta.

"Some hoe-type openers, without air assist, are prone to plugging, and with disc type openers it can be difficult to maintain a consistent seeding depth, but with the Technotill system if we set it at a one-inch seeding depth, for example, it stayed there."

The BRRG, with support from various industry players, outfitted a Fabro plot-sized drill with the Technotill system. "Research plots aren't the same as a farmer's field, but we wanted our seed drill to reflect as best as possible the type of seeding practices farmers are using."

While the Fabro seed box and seed distribution system remained the same, other components of the plot drill were changed. The frame of the tool bar was upgraded to heavier duty four-inch square steel tubing. Flexicoil/New Holland supplied the shanks.

The plots, which were used for regional seed variety trials as well as other research projects, were established in eight locations, over four counties. In Beaver, Flagstaff and Stettler Counties the soil is mostly Thin Black, and in Paintearth

County some soils are Dark Brown. There are also areas of solonchic soils through the region. And seeding conditions over the various sites ranged from just about ideal to very dry.

"The Technotill system worked well in all conditions," says Eyolfson. The cereal plots were seeded at one-inch depth, canola plots a bit shallower, and in some of the pea trials seeds were placed about four inches deep. The idea was to place seed at or near moisture. Regardless of where the seed was placed, the plate system on the Technotill packed only three-eighths of an inch of soil on top of the seed.

As the crops were seeded, the Technotill system created just a bit of soil disturbance over the seed row, which helped the soil to warm faster.

"It wasn't an ideal growing season, but the plots did reasonably well despite the conditions," says Eyolfson. "In areas where we had decent moisture, barley plots yielded about 110 bushels per acre. In other areas it was so dry, we didn't know if plots would germinate, but they did. Overall with our canola plots I believe we had improved stand establishment compared to the disc openers used previously."

For a research organization that has to prevent crop and variety contamination between plots and fields, Eyolfson found the Technotill system also much easier to clean.

"We were well satisfied with the way the Technotill system performed and will be using it again in 2010," says Eyolfson.

For more information on the Technotill seeding system phone 780-352-9890 or visit the company website at: www.technotill.com and for more information on BRRG projects visit their website at www.areca.ab.ca/site/brrg

MAKING SEEDING SIMPLE!

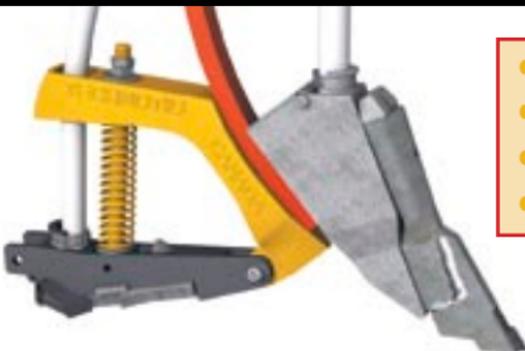
▶ **IMPROVE GERMINATION**

▶ **REDUCE MAINTENANCE**

▶ **IMPROVE EFFICIENCY**

▶ **REDUCE COST**

CONVERT YOUR AIR SEEDER INTO AN AIR DRILL AND SAVE



- **Cost effective retrofit**
- **Proven in Wet & Dry Conditions**
- **Sideband fertilizer**
- **Direct seed into sod**

www.technotill.com

Technotill Seeding system

Telephone: **780-352-9890**, Wetaskiwin, AB

www.technotill.com