

# Get The Most Out Of Your Air Seeder

**STEWART COLLIN, SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

Stewart Collin gets the most out of older seeding equipment by using a relatively new seeding system to conserve moisture and produce an even crop.

The Alberta-made Technotill Seeding System has helped the southern Alberta farmer extend the life of a John Deere 665 air seeding system.

"The beauty of the Technotill system is that I can use the John Deere along with another older air tank and have a double shoot system," says Collin, who farms southwest of Foremost. "It may not be the prettiest system out there, but the price is right and the main thing is, it does an excellent job."

Collin grows about 1,760 acres of winter wheat, durum and peas. The system allows him to seed into moisture at varying depths.

He switched to the Technotill system in 2002 after several years of using a seeding system mounted on a Morris 8900 semi-floating hitch cultivator with 16 inch knock on shovels, followed by shank-mounted twin packer wheels.

"Seed placement was variable," he recalls. "I could get it placed on top of moisture but in drier seedbeds it wouldn't allow me to place the seed into moisture. It kept lifting out."

With Technotill, the opener can be set to run shallow or deep to reach moisture and there is still only a thin layer of soil packed

on top of the seed.

With his current seeding system equipped with Technotill, Collin seeds and fertilizes in one pass. "I only have 11 quarters to seed, which requires about a nine-day seeding window," he says. "I can start a few days later than most other farmers, apply a pre-seeding burn off and get good weed control.

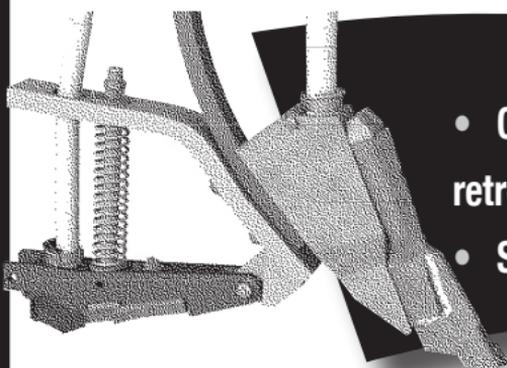
"Then I can go in and seed with the double shoot system, placing the seed with supercal and/or humates or the option of a starter fertilizer, right in the seed row, and then about 50 pounds of actual nitrogen and 15 lb. of phosphorous is placed to the side and slightly higher than the seed."

Collin seeds at 5.2 miles per hour into standing stubble. The Technotill system, on a 35-foot-wide toolbar with 12 inch shank spacing, can work through heavy stubble. It leaves just a bit of black soil that warms quickly, while leaving cover in place.

"Once the crop is in, you get nice even germination, which is what we want because we straight combine everything," says Collin. "The system does leave the field a bit rough, but you just have to know how to manage it. We usually park the trucks on the road or at one end of the field and then use a grain cart to move grain from the combine to the trucks. It fits well into our system."

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