

ABSTRACT

Abstract: A program designed to allow growers to evaluate the performance of their planter units on test stands designed to simulate ground speed and seed spacing has developed during this time period. Making adjustments, modifications and/or corrections to improve the performance of the planter has increased the confidence of the grower prior to actual field planting and eliminated the number of seed related field calls for seed suppliers in the spring. Plant population counts prior to harvest and harvested beet counts have increased during this time period and are well correlated with increased recoverable sugar yields.

GILES, J.F.* and N.R. CATTANACH, Dept. of Soil Science, North Dakota State Univ., Fargo, ND 58105. Ten years of improvement of planter performance and sugarbeet stand establishment.

The sugarbeet industry in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota has made substantial progress in sugarbeet stand establishment over the past ten years. This improvement has come about because of cooperation and commitment from the sugarbeet growers and others involved in the sugarbeet industry. Improvements in stand establishments have been the result of improved seedbed preparation, seed quality, and planter precision and performance. A program designed to allow growers to evaluate the performance of their planter units on test stands designed to simulate ground speed and seed spacing has developed during this time period. Making adjustments, modifications and/or corrections to improve the performance of the planter has increased the confidence of the grower prior to actual field planting and eliminated the number of seed related field calls for seed suppliers in the spring. Plant population counts prior to harvest and harvested beet counts have increased during this time period and are well correlated with increased recoverable sugar yields.