

1992

G92-1068 Planting and Harvesting Information for Nebraska Crops

Drew J. Lyon

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, drew.lyon@wsu.edu

David D. Baltensperger

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Lenis Alton Nelson

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, lnelson1@unl.edu

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Planting and Harvesting Information for Nebraska Crops

This NebGuide gives information on the normal practices of planting and harvesting crops grown in Nebraska.

*Drew J. Lyon, Dryland Crops Specialist
David D. Baltensperger, Plant Breeder and
Lenis A. Nelson, Plant Breeder*

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This publication is a guide for some basic crop management practices for a variety of Nebraska crops. There are many special or unique cropping situations that will require some adjustments to these suggestions. *Table I* lists information for 29 crops.

For information about recommended varieties, refer to the most recent version of the following Extension Circulars:

- *EC-102 Spring Small Grain Variety Tests,*
- *EC-104 Soybean Variety Tests,*
- *EC-105 Corn Performance Tests,*
- *EC-106 Grain Sorghum Hybrid Tests,*
- *EC-107 Proso Millet and Sunflower Variety Tests.*

Calibrating Seed Equipment

Accurate seeding is important to maximize yields and seeding efficiency. Most seeding equipment comes with seeding charts that help in setting the seeding rate. Seeding rate is influenced by a number of factors such as size of seed, test weight, shape of seed and number of seeds per pound.



A simple method of calibrating seeding equipment is:

Sugarbeet planting in a firm seedbed

1. Fasten a sack or other container to two or more spouts. **during early April in the North Platte river valley.**
2. Fill drill or planter one-half full of seed.
3. Collect seed from 600 feet of row.
 - o If using two spouts, stake 300 feet in a straight line.
 - o If using three spouts, stake 200 feet in a straight line.
4. Weigh seed, in ounces, from the 600 feet of row.
5. Use *Table II* to determine the seeding rate per acre.

Table I. Crop information for Nebraska.

| Crop | Test Weight | Approx.^a Number | Seeding Rate | Usual Planting Date | Seeding Depth^b Soil Cover | Most Active Harvest Dates | Cylinder^c Speed | Safe Storage Moisture Content |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <i>lb/bu</i> | <i>seed/lb</i> | <i>lb/acre</i> | | <i>inches</i> | | | <i>%</i> |
| Alfalfa | 60 | 200,000 | 8-20 | 5/1 or 8/10 | 0.5 | – | – | – |
| Amaranth | 60 | 900,000 | 1-2 | 6/1 | 0.25-0.5 | 10/1 | Slow | 12.5 |
| Barley | | | | | | | | |
| spring | 48 | 13,000 | 60-90 | 4/1 | 1-2 | 7/15-7/25 | Fast | 12.5 |
| winter | 48 | 13,000 | 48-72 | see winter wheat ^d | 1-2 | 7/5-7/20 | Fast | 12.5 |
| Beans, field | 60 | 1,300 | 50-65 | 6/1 | 1.5-3 | 9/10 | Slow | 12.0 |
| Buckwheat | 48 | 15,000 | 36-60 | 5/30 | 0.75-1 | 9/1 | Medium | 12.0 |
| Canola (see rape/canola) | | | | | | | | |
| Cicer milkvetch | 60 | 130,000 | 12-20 | 5/1 | 0.5 | – | – | – |
| Corn | | | | | | | | |
| grain (irrigated) | 56 | 1,200 | 18-22 | 5/1 | 1-3 | 10/30 | Slow | 13.0 |
| grain (nonirrigated) | 56 | 1,200 | 8-12 | 5/1 | 1-3 | 10/30 | Slow | 13.0 |
| silage | 56 | 1,200 | 18-22 | 5/1-6/1 | 1-3 | 9/10 | – | – |
| Clover | | | | | | | | |
| red | 60 | 275,000 | 6-8 | 4/15 or 8/10 | 0.5 | – | – | – |
| sweet | 60 | 260,000 | 8-10 | 4/15 or 8/10 | 0.5 | – | – | – |
| Crambe | 22 | 45,000 | 8-12 | 4/1 | 0.75-1 | 7/10-7/30 | Medium | 8.0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|---------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------|------|
| Flax (irrigated) | 56 | 90,000 | 20-30 | 4/1 | 0.5-0.75 | 8/20 | Medium | 11.0 |
| Hairy vetch | 60 | 20,000 | 60-70 | 9/1-9/20 | 1-2 | 7/20 | Medium | 12.0 |
| Millet | | | | | | | | |
| proso | 50 | 82,000 | 10-20 | 6/1 | 0.5-0.75 | 9/5 | Medium | 12.0 |
| foxtail, grain | 50 | 220,000 | 10-20 | 6/1 | 0.5-0.75 | 9/5 | Medium | 12.0 |
| pearl, grain | 60 | 50,000 | 2-5 | 5/20-6/1 | 1-2 | 9/30 | Fast | 12.0 |
| Mustard | | | | | | | | |
| oil crop | 58 | 100,000 | 4-6 | 4/15 | 0.5-0.75 | 8/1 | Medium | 8.0 |
| Oats | 32 | 14,000 | 50-70 | 4/1 | 1-2 | 7/30 | Fast | 12.0 |
| Onions | – | 152,000 | 2-3 | 4/1 | 0.25-1 | 9/1 | – | – |
| Potatoes | – | – | 1800-2800 | 3/15-6/1 | 4-6 | 7/15-9/30 | – | – |
| Rape/canola | | | | | | | | |
| forage, spring | 50 | 160,000 | 3-6 | 4/1 | 0.5-0.75 | Spring | | |
| forage, winter | 50 | 160,000 | 3-6 | 8/15 | 0.5-0.75 | Fall-Spring | | |
| oil crop, spring | 50 | 160,000 | 3-6 | 4/1 | 0.5-0.75 | 7/20-8/1 | Medium | 8.0 |
| oil crop, winter | 50 | 160,000 | 3-6 | 9/1 | 0.5-0.75 | 7/10-7/20 | Medium | 8.0 |
| Rye | 56 | 18,000 | 56-80 | see winter wheat ^d | 1-2 | 7/20 | Fast | 12.5 |
| Safflower | 40 | 13,000 | 15-20 | 5/1 | 0.75-1.5 | 9/10 | Medium | 8.0 |
| Sorghum, grain | 56 | 20,000 | 2-3 | 6/1 | 0.75-1 | 9/30 | Medium | 13.0 |
| Soybeans | 60 | 2,700 | 45-60 | 6/1 | 0.75-1 | 9/10 | Medium | 11.0 |
| Sunflowers | 28 | 5,100 | 4 | 6/7 | 1-2 | 9/30 | Slow | 9.0 |
| Sugarbeets | – | 50,000 | 2-5 | 4/7 | 0.75-1.25 | 10/20 | – | – |
| Triticale | | | | | | | | |
| spring | 48 | 18,000 | 56-80 | 4/1 | 1-2 | 7/25 | Fast | 12.5 |
| winter | 48 | 18,000 | 56-80 | see winter wheat ^d | 1-2 | 7/20 | Fast | 12.5 |
| Turnip, summer | 52 | 174,000 | 2-5 | 4/1 | 1.5 | Spring-Summer | – | – |
| Wheat | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---------|-------|-------------------|----------|--------|------|------|
| spring | 60 | 15,000 | 60-90 | 4/1 | 1-2 | 7/25 | Fast | 12.5 |
| winter | 60 | 15,000 | 30-60 | 9/10 ^d | 1-2 | 7/20 | Fast | 12.5 |
| Wheatgrass | | | | | | | | |
| crested | – | 175,000 | 5-10 | 4/1 or 8/10 | 0.5-0.75 | 7/25 | Fast | 12.0 |
| intermediate | – | 88,000 | 5-8 | 4/1 or 8/10 | 0.5-0.75 | 7/25 | Fast | 12.0 |
| tall | – | 79,000 | 8-12 | 4/1 or 8/10 | 0.5-0.75 | 7/25 | Fast | 12.0 |
| western | – | 110,000 | 8-12 | 4/1 or 8/10 | 0.5-0.75 | 7/25 | Fast | 12.0 |
| Summer annual forage grasses | | | | | | | | |
| forage sorghum | – | 20,000 | 20-25 | 5/31-6/10 | 0.75-1.5 | Summer | – | – |
| foxtail millet | – | 220,000 | 15-20 | 6/10 | 0.5-0.75 | Summer | – | – |
| pearl millet | – | 50,000 | 10-20 | 5/20-6/15 | 1-2 | Summer | – | – |
| sorghum-sudan | – | 25,000 | 20-25 | 6/10 | 0.75-1.5 | Summer | – | – |
| sudan grass | – | 55,000 | 20-25 | 6/10 | 0.75-1.5 | Summer | – | – |
| ^a Seed size will vary by variety and growing condition. ^b Sandy soils should be seeded slightly deeper. ^c Slow = rpm of 300-500, Medium = rpm of 501-1000, and Fast = rpm of > 1000. ^d 9/10 at 4,000 ft. elevation. Add one day for every 100 ft. elevation below 4,000 ft. and subtract one day for every 100 ft. elevation above 4,000 ft. | | | | | | | | |

Table II. Seeding rates per acre.

| Grain collected from 600 ft of row is: | Row Spacing in Inches | | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 14 |
| -- oz. -- | ----- Amount of Grain Being Seeded in lb/A----- | | | | | |
| 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | 23 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 12 |
| 4 | 31 | 27 | 24 | 22 | 18 | 16 |
| 5 | 39 | 34 | 30 | 27 | 23 | 19 |
| 6 | 47 | 41 | 36 | 33 | 27 | 23 |
| 7 | 54 | 48 | 42 | 38 | 32 | 27 |
| 8 | 62 | 54 | 48 | 44 | 36 | 31 |
| 9 | 70 | 61 | 54 | 49 | 41 | 35 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 10 | 78 | 68 | 60 | 54 | 45 | 39 |
| 11 | 86 | 75 | 67 | 60 | 50 | 43 |
| 12 | 93 | 82 | 73 | 65 | 54 | 47 |
| 13 | 101 | 88 | 79 | 71 | 59 | 51 |
| 14 | 109 | 95 | 85 | 76 | 63 | 54 |
| 15 | 117 | 102 | 91 | 82 | 68 | 58 |
| 16 | 124 | 109 | 97 | 87 | 73 | 62 |
| 17 | 132 | 116 | 103 | 92 | 77 | 66 |
| 18 | 140 | 122 | 109 | 98 | 82 | 70 |
| 19 | 148 | 129 | 115 | 103 | 86 | 74 |
| 20 | 156 | 136 | 121 | 109 | 91 | 78 |
| 21 | 163 | 143 | 127 | 114 | 95 | 82 |
| 22 | 171 | 150 | 133 | 120 | 100 | 86 |
| 23 | 179 | 157 | 139 | 125 | 104 | 89 |
| 24 | 187 | 163 | 145 | 131 | 109 | 93 |

File G1068 under: FIELD CROPS

F-14, Miscellaneous Crops

Issued January 1992; 6,000 printed.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Leo E. Lucas, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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