



Time is Money During Planting Season...

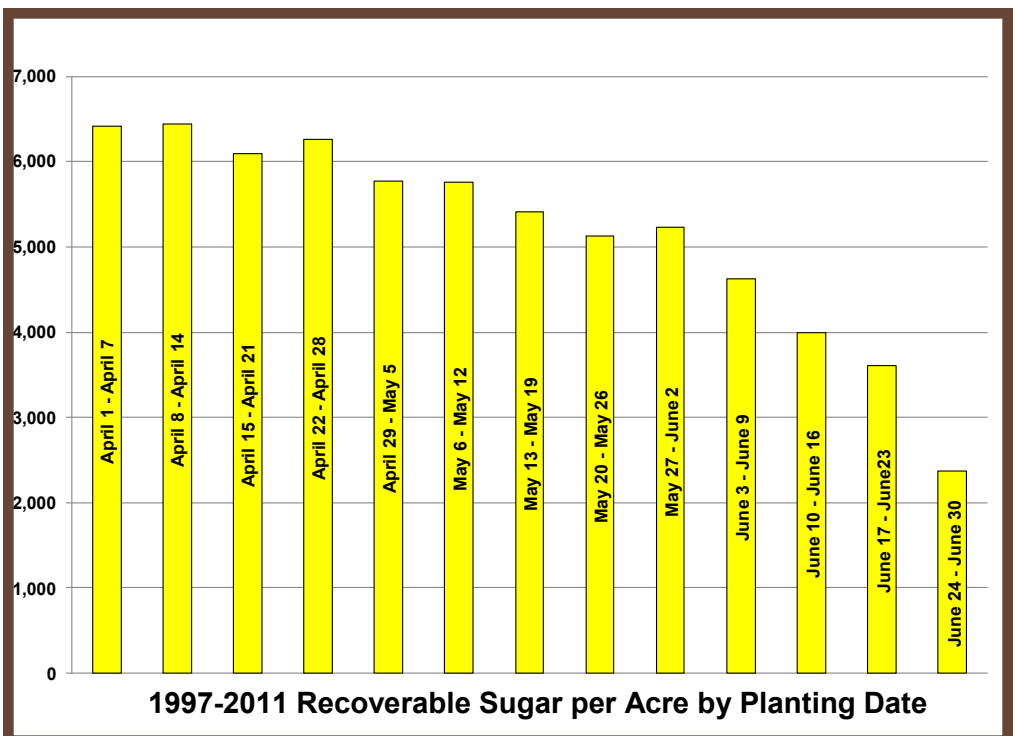
Did You Use LAUDIS On Your Corn In 2011???

Growers who used LAUDIS Herbicide (Bayer Crop Science) this past season need to be aware of some label restrictions and potential crop injury if they are planning to follow their 2011 corn crop with sugarbeets in 2012. The current label states that, "the cumulative precipitation between the application of LAUDIS and planting to sugarbeet must total 20 inches." **This restriction is in addition to the required 10 month rotation interval and thorough tillage practices.** To date, the NDAWN weather station in Wahpeton has only accumulated 12.11" of precipitation since the end of June this past year. Unless Old Man Winter arrives in full force these next few months, rotation adjustments may have to be made to stay legal with the label requirements. Any grower that has a field in question should also consider having a chemical bioassay performed - this is a simple and GREAT tool to avoid and/or rule out any serious herbicide carry-over issues this coming spring.

It was Benjamin Franklin who first coined the phrase "Time is Money" – and when we take a look at the relationship between sugarbeet planting date and harvested yield, this simple statement is as true today as it was back then.

From 1997-2011, just over 63% of the total sugarbeet acreage sown at Minn-Dak has been planted between April 22nd and May 12th. Not only does this common sense practice of planting early consistently result in a more profitable crop for both you the grower and the Cooperative as a whole, but it naturally begs the question, what are the financial impacts of a delayed planting?

The chart below represents the average recoverable sugar per acre of the beets planted during each 1-week interval from April 1st to June 30th over the past 15 years. Using our current beet payment of \$0.23 per pound of sugar, **for each week that planting is delayed beyond May 12th, growers lose an average of \$120 per acre per week** - that's a weekly revenue loss of \$60,000 for a 500 acre grower!!! With these dollar figures in mind, make sure that you have your planter(s) serviced, converted and calibrated well before spring work arrives - At \$120 per acre per week, time truly is money...



Getting Ready for the Planter Test Stand

The NDSU Planter Test Stand will be held on March 6th, 7th and 8th (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) at the Minn-Dak Seed Warehouse/Tare Lab. In the same fashion as previous years, it is requested that all growers make an appointment with their Agriculturist to help run all the units through in an organized manner and to alleviate congestion. The test stand hours will be from 8 AM - 4 PM all three days with the seed companies sponsoring coffee, rolls and a catered lunch each day. If it has been awhile since you've had your planter boxes tested, or have never done so in the past, please consider making an appointment and bringing them in - we are often able to find problems that would otherwise go undetected causing serious malfunctions that can not only delay planting, but cause significant stand losses by damaging and/or wasting expensive seed.

NDSU Recommendations for Preparing Seed Hoppers for a Test Stand Clinic

- Number each seeding unit
- Number each plate for each unit (a paint pen works well)
- Number each door for each seeding unit
- If new plates were installed, use 1/16 inch drill bit to clean out seed plate holes (drill from the back side of the plate)
- Mark the position of each plate when installed on seed unit
- Ensure the proper brush is in use & installed correctly
- Make sure knocker wheels are installed and not the wiper bars
- Double-check that the black plastic door inside the unit is in the closed position
- Clean out each seed tube and seed hopper with high pressure air
- Bring along vacuum gauges for calibration
- Leave the hopper lids off (and leave them at home)
- Keep planter units dry during transport to and from the test stand location
- Don't forget planter plates for each seed size ordered and to be evaluated



Retired fieldman Bob Skelton fine-tuning a Milton Planter box during last year's NDSU Planter Test Stand.

2012 John Deere Maxi II Plate & Vacuum Recommendations

Medium Plate (JD Part: H 136445)

<u>Seed Size</u>	<u>Vacuum</u>
Mini Pellets	2 Inches
Regular Pellets	2-3 Inches
Pro / Gem 50	2 Inches
Pro / Gem 100	2 Inches
S1	2-3 Inches
Agracoat	2-3 Inches

Large Plate (JD Part: A 51713)

<u>Seed Size</u>	<u>Vacuum</u>
Mini Pellets	2-3 Inches
Regular Pellets	2-3 Inches
Pro / Gem 50	2 Inches
Pro / Gem 100	2-3 Inches
Agracoat	2-3 Inches

Sorghum Plate (JD Part: A 43066)

<u>Seed Size</u>	<u>Vacuum</u>
Regular Pellets	3-4 Inches
Pro / Gem 100	3-4 Inches
Agracoat S	3-5 Inches
Pro 200	3-5 Inches
ELS	3-5 Inches
S2	3-4 Inches