

## Planting and Harvesting Information for Nebraska Crops

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Information on the normal practices of planting and harvesting crops grown in Nebraska are provided in this publication.

This publication is a guide for some basic crop management practices for a variety of Nebraska crops. Many special or unique cropping situations 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:

*EC101 Spring Seed Guide,*  
*EC103 Fall Seed Guide.*

Copies are available at your local UNL Extension office. Or you may prefer to visit the Variety Testing home page at <http://varietytest.unl.edu>.

### 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:

1. Fasten a sack or other container to two or more spouts.
2. Fill drill or planter one-half full of seed.

3. Check to determine if all spouts are delivering the same amount.
4. Collect seed from 600 feet of row.
  - a. If using two spouts, stake 300 feet in a straight line.
  - b. If using three spouts, stake 200 feet in a straight line.
5. Weigh seed, in ounces, from the 600 feet of row.
6. Use *Table II* to determine the seeding rate per acre.



Harvesting a winter wheat variety test at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln West Central Research and Extension Center Dryland Farm at North Platte.

**Table I. Crop information for Nebraska.**

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Test Weight</i>	<i>Approximate<sup>a</sup> Number</i>	<i>Seeding Rate</i>	<i>Usual Planting Date</i>	<i>Seeding Depth<sup>b</sup> Soil Cover</i>	<i>Most Active Harvest Dates</i>	<i>Cylinder<sup>c</sup> Speed</i>	<i>Safe Storage Moisture Content</i>
	- lb/bu -	- seed/lb -	- lb/acre -		- inches -			- % -
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	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 <sup>d</sup>								
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	60	7-8 <sup>e</sup>	1800-2800	3/15-6/1	4-6	7/15-9/30	—	—
Rape/canola/brown mustard								
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	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
Sugar beet	—	50,000	2-5	4/7	0.75-1.25	10/20	—	—
Triticale								
spring	56	18,000	56-80	4/1	1-2	7/25	Fast	12.5
winter	56	18,000	56-80	see winter wheat	1-2	7/10	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	9/10-10/1 <sup>f</sup>	1-2	7/10	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	—	—

<sup>a</sup>Seed size will vary by variety and growing condition.

<sup>b</sup>Sandy soils should be seeded slightly deeper.

<sup>c</sup>Slow = rpm of 300-500, Medium = rpm of 501-1000, and Fast = rpm of > 1000.

<sup>d</sup>Ear corn test weight = 70 lb/bu.

<sup>e</sup>Seed pieces.

<sup>f</sup>In Panhandle 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

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