

GOOD RESULTS AT HARVEST START AT SEEDING

With many producers across the U.S. and Canada making final preparations for seeding winter wheat, we at Exapta would like to provide a few tips to keep in mind as the drills begin to roll—remember, a successful '09 wheat crop begins with seeding. Properly sown is half-grown!

Items frequently neglected on gauge-wheel drills (e.g., JD 50, 60 & 90-series):



1) Make sure your drill openers have enough down-pressure. While much of the continent's hard red winter wheat and soft red winter wheat will be going into conditions that will be borderline muddy (at least at the outset of the planting window), some of the western regions of the High Plains will again be facing marginally dry conditions. Especially in average to drier-than-average conditions, it is imperative that the drill openers have enough down-pressure, which often requires plenty of additional suitcase weights being added. As soils regain structure after several years of continuous no-till, the down-pressure requirement may increase as

compared to Years 1 – 3. (Generally, considerably more down-pressure is required on soils of the southern Great Plains than in the northern region.) [See our DVD](#) for detailed step-by-step instructions on proper adjustment of down-pressure.



No-Till Seeding Explained™ DVD

"A great educational DVD: Thorough, well-tested, innovative, and farmer-friendly."
—Steve Groff, Cedar Meadow Farm, Holtwood, PA.

"Lots of good information." —Alan Mindemann, Apache, OK

"Excellent! An in-depth look at all aspects of planter and drill setup in tough no-till conditions." —Craig Stehly, Mitchell, SD

Visit www.exapta.com to watch a video excerpt on Emergence Uniformity



2) Get a large majority of the seeds to the bottom of the furrow.

Check for wear on the lower edge of the seed boot. Read more on [Tech Tips for Drills](#). Run the openers so that the boot's

lower edge is skimming the soil surface most of the time.

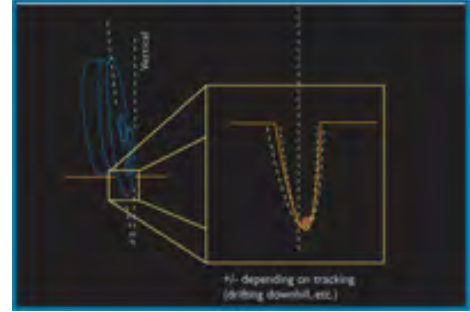
3) Firm the seeds sufficiently (if questionable, it probably isn't enough). Replace the original rigid-rim JD firming wheels with designs that fit the furrow much more consistently: Case's SDX firming wheel (part # N306145A1), or the new Needham V8 firming wheel (much improved over the earlier V6 model).



4) Close the furrow gently, by crumbling.

Note that the heavy JD cast closing wheels tend to hop to a ridiculous extent, and they're like a hammer when they land after being airborne. Even if they ran smoothly, they are too heavy in moist conditions, and they struggle to close the furrow in a structured soil without causing excessive packing over the seed. The

design of [Exapta's Thompson wheels](#) was carefully refined over many years of testing to provide excellent furrow closing characteristics: No packing, but consistent chopping of the sidewall. Plus, the Thompson wheels are at the top of the pack when it comes to shedding mud and straw!



Visit www.exapta.com to watch a video excerpt on Emergence Uniformity