See something new?

We are excited to share our new logo with you! We wanted to transition to a fresh new design, while including an element that represents the Ag industry. While we are excited for the updated look, it was important for us to keep as much of the traditional logo and colors as we could. Keep an eye out as our new signage and print materials begin to transition to the new logo. We hope you like it!

Planting Soybeans Early

More and more farmers are planting soybeans early. In fact, some agronomists may actually encourage growers to plant soybeans before planting corn. Growers should ask themselves, "What do I hope to gain by pushing up the planting dates?" The obvious answer is to increase yield. Some growers have cited as much as 10 bu/acre yield increase. In today's market this should translate to $120 - $130 per acre additional revenue.

As daylight increases through June 24th, the soybean plant has additional time to increase the node count, which provides a key physiological advantage. According to James Nevils (Phillips Seed Farms, Dealer of Knob Noster, MO), planting early also gives the grower a wider window to plant within and allows growers to account for weather delays.

James Klindt, a grower from Atlantic, IA shares, "The main risk in planting early soybeans is frost." Although soybeans are much denser than corn, the growing point, which is in the top trifoliate, is more exposed to frost. Growers should also consider planting ahead of established crop insurance dates, which outlines when soybeans can still be planted and covered.

The optimum planting dates for soybeans are April 1 to May 15, depending on location. Data has indicated soybeans planted mid- to late-April have yielded 105 to 106 percent over the mean in numerous test plots.

The question remains, "Am I willing to risk the cost of replanting my soybeans?" The decision is ultimately yours to make, but it depends on your existing stand and your expected growing condition outlook. Best wishes to you in this new growing season.

Article by Garvin Cooley – Phillips Seed Farms Area Sales Agronomist (Western MO)

Spring Cover Crops

With spring right around the corner, it's the perfect time to talk about some cover crop options for the spring season. First up: Oats. Oats are an easy to raise, high feed quality crop that helps build soil health and scavenge nitrogen from deep in the soil. They should be planted in the March to April months and can have anywhere from 65 to 100 lbs. an acre.

Another excellent spring option that has grown in popularity is Austrian Winter Peas. As a legume, they produce their own nitrogen, so they are paired best with a grass mix. Peas are a great option for an early cutting of hay as well as building soil health and loosening the topsoil. Plant in early March or April at 30 to 40 lbs. per acre.

A third option for spring cover crop is clover. Clover is known for being a great early grazing option for cattle as well as for hay. It also helps loosen topsoil as well as build soil health. Similar to peas, clover is also a legume, which means it produces its own nitrogen as well. Clover is known for being a drought-resistant plant. If we have a dry spring or if you farm in dry, sandy soils, this is a superb option. The planting window for clover is February to May and it is planted at 6 to 15 lbs. an acre.

Article by Zach Painter – Phillips Seed Farms Area Sales Agronomist (Northeast NE)

Corn System

The strength and success of any system is its foundation. For corn that is its root system. There are three types of root structures on a corn plant and placing them in proper soil types can increase yields on your farm. The three types of root structures are Penetrating, Fibrous, and Modified.

Penetrating roots give growers an advantage in poorly drained soils that are on a corn-on-corn rotation. These roots have the ability to move further through the plate-like soil structure found in poorly drained soils.

Fibrous root structures consume nutrients and moisture near the soil surface to provide a broader footprint under the corn plant, which helps maximize water and nutrient uptake. This allows fibrous roots to give growers an advantage when placed in courser soils that don't hold water well.

Modified roots bring you the best of both worlds and should be used in highly variable soil types.

Whatever you choose, we wish you the best of luck this corn planting season.

Article by Wesley Broyles – Phillips Seed Farms Area Sales Agronomist (Eastern KS)

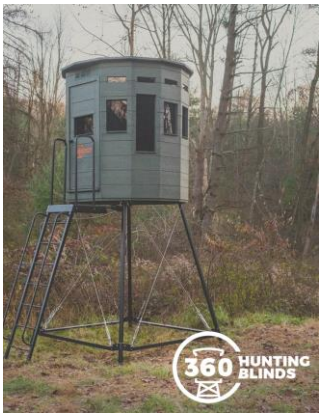
Pictured Above – Kory Smith General Manager Phillips Seed Farms

We would like to welcome Doug Toburen to the Phillips Seed Farms team. He works out of our Hope location. Doug is a Warehouse Associate and will be helping with warehouse duties, seed treatment and customer service. He comes to us with 20 years of military experience (12 years in the Marines and 8 years in the Air National Guard) as well as 7 years of experience in the Wind Turbine industry. In addition he has a Business Management Degree and an MBA in Business. Doug and his wife live in the Hope area. Welcome aboard Doug. We are glad to have you!

Phillips Seed Farms Wildlife Division is excited to announce the addition of two new product lines. We have just added 360 Hunting Blinds and DeerGro food plot products. The 360 Hunting Blind are sturdy, comfortable, boast an innovative window design, and have an industry-leading warranty. DeerGro provides sprays to help establish a new food plot and improve an existing food plot.

These two new products broaden, enhance and complement our current wildlife product line. We are excited to bring on both 360 Hunting Blinds and DeerGro food plots sprays.

Jeremy Sluder – Phillips Seed Farms Wildlife Division Lead



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