

# DISC SEEDER MAINTENANCE

*Don't forget your disc seeder once it's served its purpose for your sowing season. Engineering company, Aricks Australia offer advice for downtime maintenance.*

Pre-season seeder maintenance is crucial for proper germination and seed placement which aids in producing high yields. A poorly maintained disc seeder will leave you running out of time and cost you money. Make sure to check the following;

- Transport/frame wheel bearings need regular greasing and adjusting to have no side play. They should spin freely and quietly. Replace bearings if there is any noise (rumble) or resistance to rotation.
- The disc and seed boot must be in top condition. As the disc wears, the surface area/blade edge decreases and the wear rate increases, so starting on 17 inch discs will not get you through a season the way an 18 inch disc will. When the discs wear below 17 inches, rapid seed boot wear will also occur. When fitting the new disc, the bevel edge faces towards the seed boot – remember – “Bevel to Boot”.
- The seed boot needs to be inspected for wear along the bottom outside edge. If the bottom edge is worn, seed can escape in the wrong direction and can sit on top of the soil. The inside face of the boot needs to be inspected for wear against the disc. This part wears thin and then breaks out causing the boots to plug in wet muddy conditions. Seed boots cost a lot more to replace than discs so bear that in mind.
- Check the seed boot for vertical play (up and down movement). The mounting bolt and opener holes may be worn or elongated, this will cause erratic seed placement and it will be impossible to get consistent depth. The boot spring and tab also need to be evaluated as they too play a critical part in correct seed placement especially in the case of air seeders.
- The boot spring should hold the boot firmly against the disc blade. Pull the boot away from the disc and release, it should snap back against the blade and not bounce off or flop against the blade. Replace if the tension has been lost.
- Disc hub, press, closing and gauge wheel bearings all need to be inspected and replaced, if any side movement is present.
- Closing and press wheel pivot bushes should have free movement up and down with little side movement. If the bushes are stiff, this will prevent the press wheel doing its job of firming the seed into the base of the disc trench. If the closing wheel has too much side-to-side movement, it will not close the seed slot correctly, if at all.
- The main pivot pin and bushes need to be inspected for side-to-side movement. When there

is movement here, the seed slot becomes narrow and rapid boot wear and poor cutting will result, also it has been known to cause boot plugging in wet conditions.

- The depth adjusting “Ts” and cover plates (slotted plate) need to show little signs to wear. Check the pins on the “T” handles, as these will wear down and break off.
- Lubricate the depth adjusting axle weekly to prevent it from seizing and tighten the bolt that holds the depth adjusting arm onto the axle. If this bolt becomes loose, rapid wear will occur in the fork jaws of the depth adjusting arm and precise loss of seed placement will occur. ❗



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