

AGNOTES

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Early Season Sugarbeet Management

There are Best Management Practices (BMP's) that need to be done up front prior to or at planting and very early in the growing season to give your sugarbeet crop the best chance at success in stand establishment and control against weeds, insects, and diseases. Which practices to deploy depends on field history and challenges in your growing area.

Below are some early planting time practices to consider along with additional resources ([follow the blue links](#)). And as always, contact your Agriculturist for more information.

Variety Placement: Review variety disease tolerance ratings for your purchased seed and place accordingly based on field history. [Variety Selector with disease tolerance sorts](#)

Early weed control for kochia and waterhemp: [A preplant incorporated \(PPI\) or preemergence \(PRE\)herbicide](#) is required for successful waterhemp and kochia control. Herbicide and recommended rate is dependent on the target weed species. For waterhemp control, use a PPI/PRE application regardless of how early planting occurs.



Above: On left, 4 pts./acre of Ethofumesate applied PRE controlling Waterhemp compared to the population on the right in untreated

Seedbed preparation tillage can be used to control emerged weeds prior to planting. Be aware vertical tillage can leave escapes as it does not lift and cut weeds as horizontal (shovel type) tillage can.

Use a [Burndown application of Gramoxone/Paraquat](#) to control weeds missed by tillage or newly emerged weeds prior to sugarbeet emergence. This is extremely effective for kochia control as it is the earliest emerging weed species. **Take caution and scout fields prior to application as any emerged sugarbeets will be killed.**



AG
GOLD
STANDARDS

Fertility
Variety Selection
Harvest
Stand Establishment

Weed Control
Disease Control
Insect Control



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Insects: Many sugarbeet insects require an at-plant insecticide since they remain under the soil surface and post applications, above ground, are generally ineffective. Two insects with specific control considerations are Sugarbeet Root Maggot and Springtail.

Sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) control requires both at-plant and post insecticide applications to be most effective.



- **Counter** at-plant is the standard recommended treatment in moderate and severe SBRM pressure areas.
 - Moderate pressure areas need Counter @ 7.5 lbs./acre.
 - Severe pressure areas need Counter @ 8.9 lbs./acre.
- Insecticide seed treatments (Poncho Beta, Cruiser Maxx, Nipsit), Midac FC, and Mustang Maxx in-furrow are not stand alone at-plant insecticide treatments in moderate or severe SBRM areas.
 - They must be used in combination with an additional at-plant insecticide.

Springtail pressure

- Counter at-plant is the standard recommendation @ 4.5 – 7.5 lbs./acre for springtail control.
- Insecticide seed treatments (Poncho Beta, Cruiser Maxx, Nipsit), Midac FC, and Mustang Maxx in-furrow are not stand alone at-plant insecticide treatments for springtail.
 - They must be used in combination with an additional at-plant insecticide to provide sufficient efficacy.
 - Midac FC existing stock can be used in MN & ND
 - Midac 4 is only labeled for use in ND.

Cover Crop Ag Note: A cover crop is vitally important to protect seedling sugarbeets from adverse wind events and soil movement. A spring seeded cover crop can help reduce damage and protect the sugar beet stand.



Starter fertilizer: The precision placement of starter fertilizer phosphorus allows easy access to the seedling sugarbeet taproot. This can reduce the amount of broadcast P fertilizer required while promoting early season growth and development.

Contact Your Agriculturist

Contact your American Crystal Agriculturist for the most up-to-date information on issues affecting sugarbeets in your area.



Rhizoctonia Fungicide Control

- Be aware of the [variety's tolerance to Rhizoctonia](#).
- All seed comes with Rhizoctonia fungicide seed treatment, but some scenarios may require an addition of an at-plant fungicide application.
- Knowing field history and previous crop is essential in making the best management decisions.
- Fields with possible heightened Rhizoctonia pressure requiring at-plant Rhizoctonia fungicide application:
 - Previous crop was soybean or edible beans
 - No small grains in the crop rotation
 - Fields with a short rotation

Stand Establishment:

Strong stand establishment is the foundation for optimizing crop potential to have an at-harvest stand of 170 – 240 beets per 100 feet of row.



Stand Establishment resources on planter maintenance & settings, and various fact sheets.

Fertilizer resources: Fertility management is a primary focus to optimizing both quality and tons for efficient sugarbeet production.

- [U of M sugarbeet fertility recommendations](#)
- [NDSU sugarbeet fertility recommendations](#)

Cover Crop	Rec Sugar/Acre	% of Avg \$Rev/A
No	10,385	99%
Yes	10,698	101%

Starter	Rec Sugar/Acre	% of Avg \$Rev/A
No	10,354	98%
Yes	10,557	101%