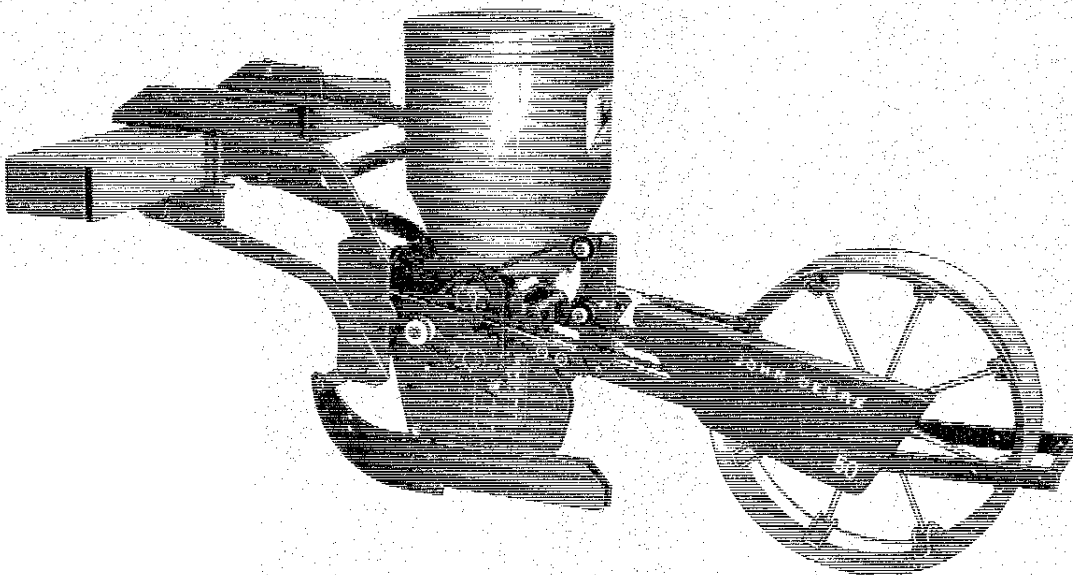




John Deere
50 Unit Planter

Operator's Manual
OM-B25515
Issue J0





To the Purchaser

This new planter was carefully designed and manufactured to give years of dependable service. To keep it running efficiently, read the instructions in this operator's manual. Each section is clearly identified so you can easily find the information you need—whether it is operation, lubrication, or adjustments and service. Read the Table of Contents to learn where each section is located. Use the alphabetical index for fast reference.

In addition to the equipment furnished with your planter, attachments are available to help you do a better job in special crop conditions. These are described in the special equipment sections of this manual and can be purchased from your John Deere dealer.

“Right-hand” and “left-hand” sides are determined by facing in the direction the planter will travel when in use.

Record your planter serial numbers in the space provided on page 57. Your dealer needs this information to give you prompt, efficient service when you order parts or attachments. If your planter requires replacement parts, go to your John Deere dealer where you can obtain genuine John Deere parts—accept no substitutes.

The warranty on this planter appears on your copy of the purchase order which you should have received from your dealer when you purchased the planter.



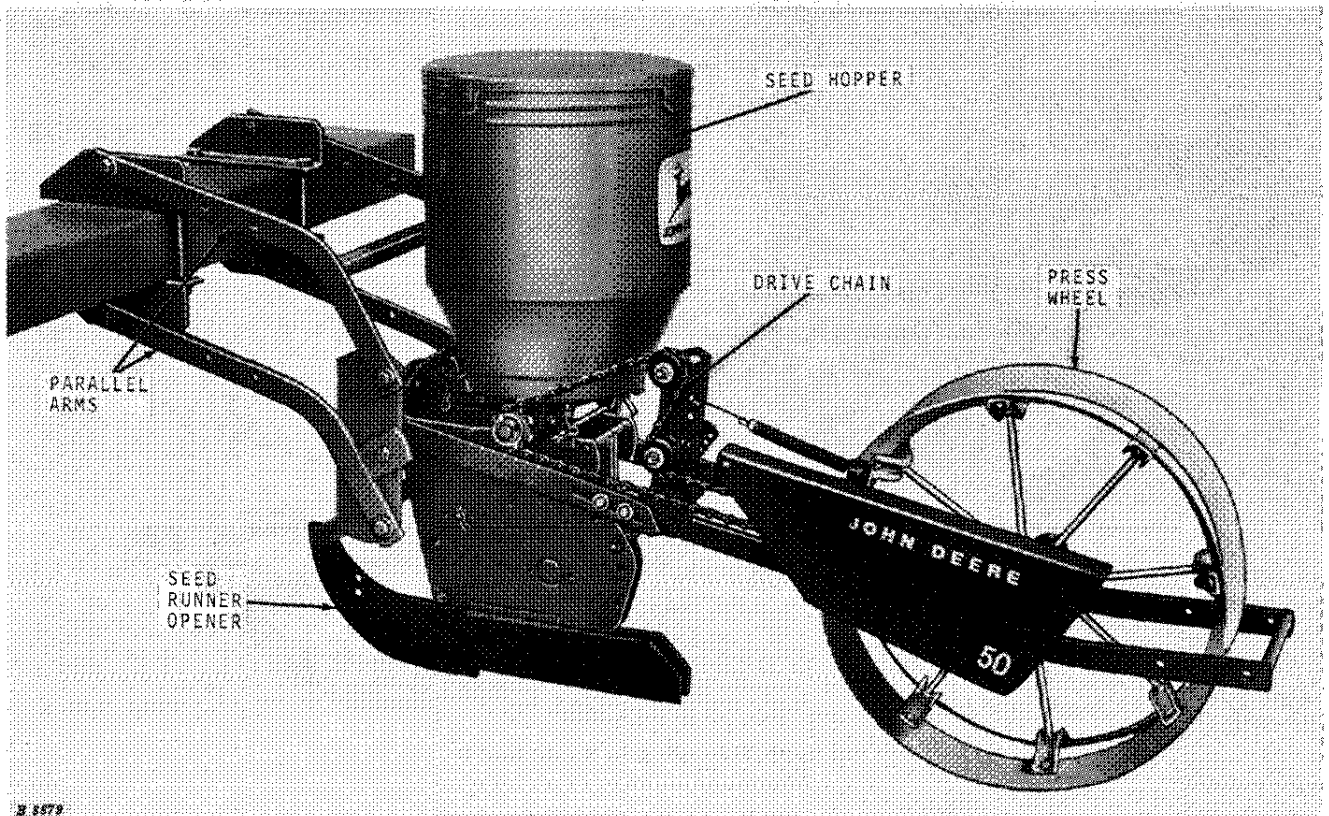
This safety alert symbol identifies important safety messages in this manual. When you see this symbol, be alert to the possibility of personal injury and carefully read the message that follows.



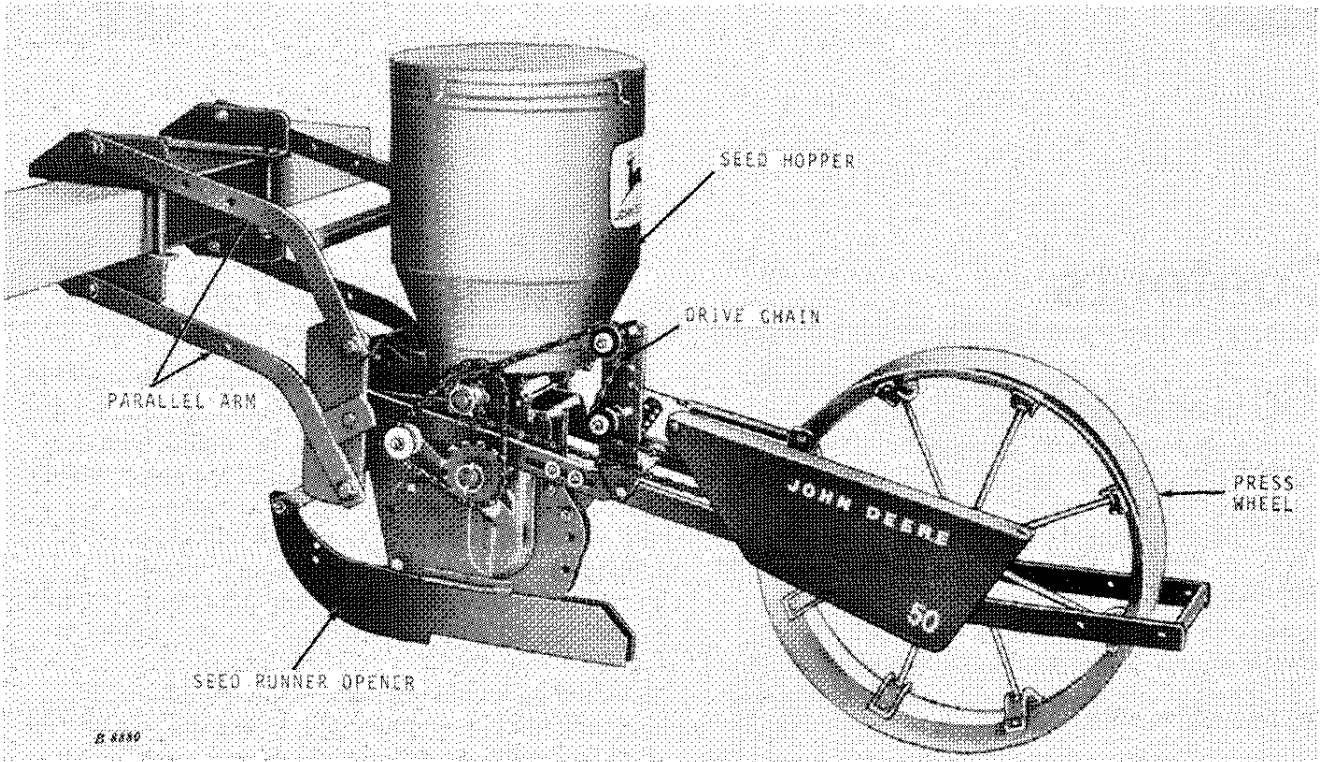


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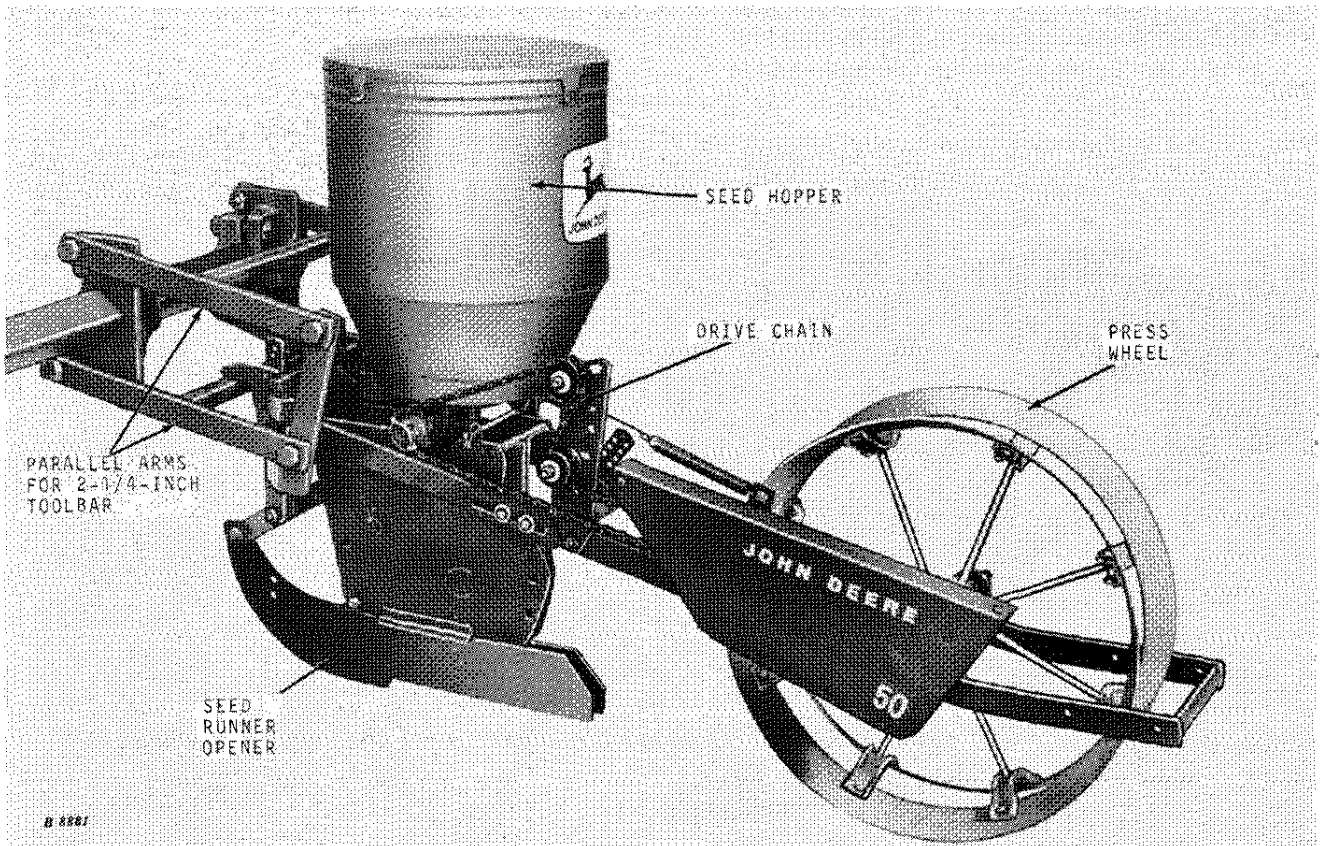
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50 Drill Unit Planter Mounted on 4 x 7-Inch Toolbar



50 Hill-Drop Unit Planter Mounted on 4 x 7-Inch Toolbar



50 Drill Unit Planter Mounted on 2-1/4-Inch Toolbar



Operation

PREPARING THE TRACTOR

All Tractors

For complete operating instructions concerning the tractor, refer to the tractor operator's manual.

Rear Wheel Tread

When two, four, six, or eight units are being used, set tractor wheel tread as nearly as possible twice the distance of the row width. For example: For 40-inch row widths, set the tractor wheel tread at 80 inches.

Tire Pressure

Consult your tractor operator's manual for front and rear tire pressure.

2510, 2520, 3010, 3020, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4520, 5010, and 5020 Series Tractors

Belt Pulley

The belt pulley must be removed from the tractor if the tractor is so equipped.

Sway Blocks

Sway blocks must be attached to eliminate all side sway except for contour planting.

Setting the Rockshaft Selector Lever

Set the selector in "D" position.

Lift Links

Adjust the lift links for transport clearance and lateral float. See tractor operator's manual.

Front End Weights

Add the necessary front end weights for efficient operation and safety. See tractor operator's manual.

Attaching Toolbar To Tractor

Attach the toolbar mounting brackets to the hitch draft links and secure side with quik-lock pin. When using the 500 Toolbar position the toolbar mast and secure it to the hitch center link.

Row Spacing

Set the tractor wheel tread (center to center of tires) twice the planter row spacing.

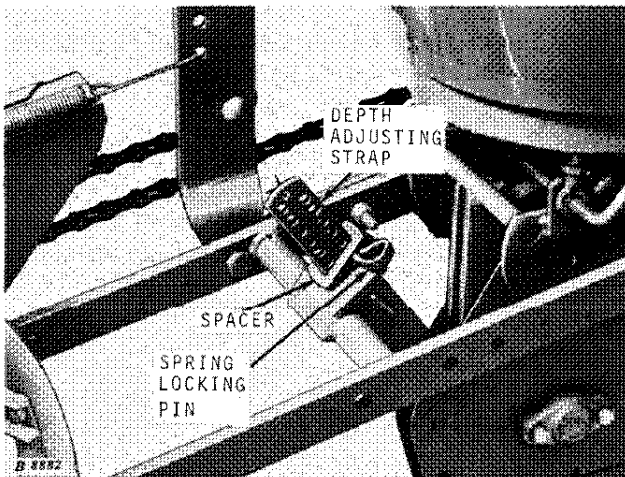
PREPARING THE PLANTER

Row Spacing

When two or more units are mounted on the same toolbar, the maximum row spacing will be limited by the length of the toolbar and position of the attaching parts. When 2-1/4-inch parallel arms are being used, minimum row spacings are dependent upon the following combinations: (1) with clamps on inside of parallel arms and without spring pressure attachment, minimum row spacing is 20 inches; (2) with clamps on outside of parallel arms, minimum row spacing is 24 inches.

Depth of Planting

The planting depth is gauged by the planter press wheel except when using a gauge shoe, gauge wheel, or V-wing.



When the press wheel is used for gauging depth, the planting depth of each unit is determined by the setting of the spring locking pin in the depth adjusting strap. To change the planting depth, move the pin up to increase the depth or down to decrease the depth.

NOTE: When gauging depth with gauge shoes or gauge wheels, spring locking pin should be in top hole of adjusting strap.

Each hole in the depth adjusting strap represents a change of approximately 1/2 inch in the planting depth. To increase the planting depth by 1/4 inch, remove the spacer from under the locking pin.

Adjust all units to plant at the same depth.

When V-wings, gauge shoes, or gauge wheels are used, the depth of planting depends upon the position of each V-wing, gauge shoe, or gauge wheel in relation to the runner.

Leveling Planter

The 50 Unit Planter is leveled by adjusting the center link of the 3-point hitch of the tractor.

The top edge of planting unit runner must be parallel to the ground when the toolbar is lowered to the operating position.

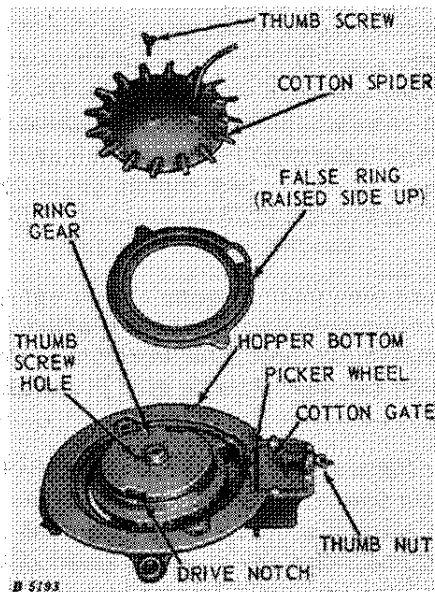
Raising and Lowering Planter

The planting unit is raised or lowered with the rear-mounted toolbar by the tractor hydraulic system.

Adjusting Speed of Rockshaft Drop

Set the speed of the rockshaft drop on tractor on which the rockshaft and implement drop can be regulated. Adjust the throttle valve to give a smooth drop of the planter.

PLANTING LINT COTTON SEED



When planting lint cotton, remove the corn shutoff from the hopper by unscrewing the thumb screw which holds it in place.

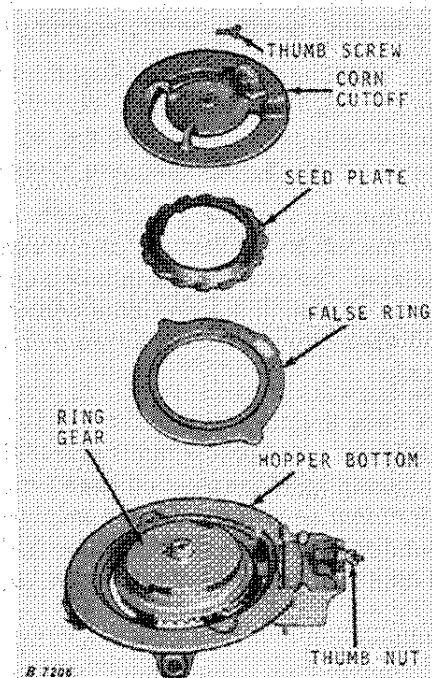
Place the false ring in hopper with RAISED SIDE UP.

Install the cotton spider and hold it in place with the thumb screw. The hole in the cotton spider is off to one side of center and lines up with the thumb screw hole in the ring gear. The drive lugs on the cotton spider must engage the drive notches on the ring gear.

NOTE: Be sure cotton spider is seated on the ring gear when thumb screw is tightened. Rotate shaft in hopper bottom to be sure it turns freely.

The quantity is regulated by the cotton gate. To increase the quantity of seed planted, turn the thumb nut to the right which will open the cotton gate. To decrease the quantity of seed planted, turn the thumb nut to the left.

PLANTING ACID DELINTED COTTON SEED, CORN, AND ALL OTHER SEED EXCEPT LINT COTTON SEED



Remove the cotton spider. Install false ring with RAISED SIDE UP when planting small seed such as feterita, sorghum, etc. If corn, acid delinted cotton, or other large seeds are to be planted, install the false ring with FLAT SIDE UP.

NOTE: Some seed plates require special false rings. See seed plate charts on pages 6 and 7.

Install seed plate.

Install corn cutoff and fasten in place with the thumb screw. The cutoff must fit tightly against the false ring.

NOTE: Be sure corn cutoff is seated on the ring gear when thumb screw is tightened. Rotate shaft in hopper bottom to be sure it turns freely.

SELECTING SEED PLATES

The selection of the seed plates is one of the most important steps in preparing the planter for the field.

There is a great variety of John Deere seed plates available in various cell sizes and number of cells.

Growing conditions change from year to year, and the size of the seed will also vary. Therefore, it is quite likely that different seed plates are required to plant the same variety of seed from year to year.

There are two ways to select seed plates. One way is to follow the recommendations of the seed supplier, if available. The other way is to take a sample of the seed to be planted to a John Deere dealer and let him run the seed through his John Deere seed plate selector stand.

In either case the accuracy of the seed plate selected should be checked when installed in your planter and operated at the planting speed you intend to travel. The best check is to plant a short distance, at a desired planting speed, and then stop and dig up the hills of corn to determine the actual planting rate.

The planting speed is very important in determining which seed plate to use. The planting rate is determined by the cell fill of the seed plate. The faster the planter is operated the faster the seed plate revolves. Therefore at faster planting speeds it may be necessary to use seed plates with slightly longer cell length to obtain the proper cell fill for the planting rate that is desired.

A 24-cell seed plate revolves at a slower rpm than a 16-cell seed plate, the result being better cell fill at the same planting speed. It is therefore recommended that a 24-cell seed plate be used in all cases when available.

NOTE: Because a 24-cell seed plate revolves at a slower rpm than a 16-cell seed plate, a 24-cell seed plate will plant at a heavier rate than a 16-cell seed plate with the same cell size at a given drilling distance and planting speed. The recommended planting speeds on pages 14, 15, 16 and 17 take this into consideration for both 16- and 24-cell plates.

The following is a list of the most popular corn plates available with 16 and 24 cells.

PLATES FOR FLAT KERNELS OF CORN			
12-Cell	16-Cell	24-Cell	Kind of Corn
.....	H697B	B30070	Extra small corn
H966B	H694B	H1302B	Small corn
.....	H1572B	H2711B	Small slender corn
H948B	H695B	H950B	Medium corn
.....	H2156B	H2594B	Long thick corn
.....	H696B	H2836B	Large corn
.....	H2504B	H2848B	Medium flat slurry treated corn
.....	H2503B	H2847B	Large flat slurry treated corn
.....	B12498	Extra large flat slurry treated corn

PLATES FOR ROUND KERNELS OF CORN			
12-Cell	16-Cell	24-Cell	Kind of Corn
.....	H2295B	Extra small round corn
.....	H2043B	H2824B	Small round corn
H2560B	H1933B	B10853	Medium round corn
.....	H2044B	H2712B	Large round corn
.....	H2820B	Extra large round corn

The following is a list of the soybean plates and the edible bean plates:

PLATES FOR SOYBEANS		
20-Cell		
H 1255 B H 2527 B (Use with H1279B Floor Plate)		
PLATES FOR EDIBLE BEANS		
16-Cell	20-Cell	24-Cell
H 1324 B H 1071 B H 956 B	H 1300 B H 954 B H 1315 B H 1258 B H 1254 B H 1255 B H 1084 B	H 1301 B H 983 B

It pays to be careful for your own sake!
Accidents can . . .
Pain
Lame
Maim
and cost you money!

The following is a partial list of seed plates which require a special false ring or floor plate, or the regular floor plate turned over:

Seed Plate No.	No. of Cells	Kind of Seed
j H 779B	16	Popcorn
j H 780B	16	Medium country gentleman sweet corn
j H 961B	16	Spanish corn and small popcorn
j H 963B	16	Large country gentleman sweet corn
j H 964B	16	Small sweet corn, small sunflower seed
j H1238B	16	Medium shoe peg corn
j H1239B	16	Medium sweet corn, large sunflower seed
j H1240B	16	Extra small country gentleman tapered sweet corn
kH1262B	16	Cantaloupes and cucumbers
sH1322B	16	Extra, extra small corn
sH1345B	16	Small round corn
sH1352B	16	Extra small narrow corn
nH1353B	16	Tomato seed (machined plate)
j H2505B	16	Popcorn
j H2671B	16	Popcorn
j H2709B	16	Popcorn
nB27768	16	Maize, higeria and grain sorghum
j H 781B	20	Popcorn
pH2527B	20	Soybeans—heavy planting
H1302B	24	Small corn and safflower
sH2672B	24	Maize, higeria and grain sorghum
nH1256B	25	Onion seed (machined)
nB27769	32	Maize, higeria and grain sorghum
H 695	16	Acid delinted cotton seed
H1315	20	Acid delinted cotton seed
j B27783	24	Acid delinted cotton seed
H1300	40	Acid delinted cotton seed
H1301	48	Acid delinted cotton seed
j H3160B	48	Acid delinted cotton seed
j	Turn P2386B	False Ring raised side up
k	Use with P509B	False Ring
n	Use with P671B	False Ring
p	Use with P1583B	False Ring
s	Use with P2498B	False Ring

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