HUNTER 600–800

(3 POINT HITCH) MODEL

USERS MANUAL, SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS & PLANTING TIPS

A PRODUCT OF

PLOTMASTER™ Systems, LLC.
Wrightsville, GA 31096

1-478-864-9108 or 1-888-629-4263

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Here you will find some answers to questions you may have regarding "The Plotmaster™" Hunter PE-302, PM-302, PE-402, PM-402, PM-603 and PM-803

Q. What type seeds can I plant with the *PLOTMASTER*™ ?

You can plant a wide variety of seeds, from very small seeds (clover, rape, chicory, etc.) to large seeds (up to the size of soybeans, peas or corn). With the Versa Seeder you can also plant Native Warm Season Grasses, (**NWSG**) **See seed charts located on pages 22 and 23.**

Q. What is the weight of the *PLOTMASTER*™ ?

The Hunter 300~~616# empty, Almost 654# with seed in the seeder. The Hunter 400~~666# empty almost 706# with seed in the seeder. The PM600~~1378# empty, almost 1450# with seed in the seeder. The PM800~~1450# empty, almost 1530# with seed in the seeder.

Q. What are the dimensions of the *PLOTMASTER*™ *?*

Hunter 300**Width: 38"~~Length: 68"~~Height: 42"

Hunter 400**Width: 48"~~Length: 68"~~Height: 42"

Hunter 600**Width: 80"~~Length: 124"~~Height: 47"

Hunter 800** Width: 104"~Length: 124"~~Height: 47"

Q. Will the *PLOTMASTER*™ Hunter 300, 400 fit in the back of a truck?

Yes, with the tongue folded back it will easily fit in a small pickup truck.

Q. Are spare parts available?

Yes, We have a complete inventory of spare parts. We also have customer service personnel that can assist you with any problems you may have.

Q. Will the *PLOTMASTER*™ cut really hard soil?

Yes, due its weight-to-size ratio, the PLOTMASTER™ has more pounds per square inch cutting capacity than most 8' to 10' drag harrows. (Sold separately are 2 Plow Attachments)

Q. How wide does the *PLOTMASTER*™ unit's disc?

The Hunter 300 will break and/or plow a maximum of 36" wide, The Hunter 400 will break and/or plow a maximum of 48" wide, The Hunter 600 will break and plow a maximum of 72" wide and the Hunter 800 will break and plow a maximum of 96" wide.

Q. How do you ship the *PLOTMASTER*™

We currently ship the PLOTMASTER™ throughout the United States using common LTL carriers, but we also have a number of dealers and distributors throughout the US. We ship our units fully assembled and ready to use with minimal set-up.

Q. What is the warranty for the *PLOTMASTER*™

The "PLOTMASTER", Hunter 300, 400, 600 and 800 are all warrantied for one year against manufacturing defects.

READ OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USE!!!

- DO NOT OPERATE *PLOTMASTER™* OVER 10 MPH.
- DO NOT SIT, STAND OR RIDE ON THE *PLOTMASTER™* WHILE IN USE
- MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF HUNTER SERIES SEEDER
  H-600 SEEDER 100 LBS
  H-800 SEEDER 120 LBS
- DO NOT PUT HANDS IN SEED BOX WHILE SEEDER MOTOR IS IN THE ON POSITION.
- DO NOT PUT LIME OR FERTILIZER IN SEEDER

***

Adding lime or fertilizer to your seeder will void the Warranty of "all" parts associated with the seeding system. Fertilizer is a corrosive and can cause premature failure of Seeder components. In addition the density of Lime and Fertilizer is much greater than seed and can bind your brush shaft causing the motor to stall. Seed is far loftier and will not compact around your Versa Seeder Brush and Cause damage to your seed motor like lime/fertilizer can.

**

DO NOT OPERATE YOUR *PLOTMASTER™* ON INCLINES GREATER THAN 10°.

READ OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USE!!!

- KEEP HANDS AND FEET CLEAR WHEN RAISING AND LOWERING UNIT.

- KEEP HANDS AND FINGERS CLEAR WHEN RAISING OR LOWERING THE DRAG AND/OR CULTIPACKER TO AVOID PINCHING

- MAKE SURE THAT THE BATTERY CLIPS ARE CONNECTED TO THE PROPER TERMINALS TO AVOID DAMAGE TO YOUR UNITS ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND/OR YOUR TRACTOR

- HUNTER 600
  RECOMMENDED FOR 40 HP AND UP TRACTORS
- HUNTER 800
  RECOMMENDED FOR 60 HP AND UP TRACTORS

(RED POSITIVE TERMINAL–BLACK NEGATIVE TERMINAL)

***

AVOID COMING IN CONTACT WITH ANY OTHER METAL PARTS ON THE ATV WHEN CONNECTING THE BATTERY CLIPS TO YOUR BATTERY

***

DETAILS ABOUT YOUR PLOTMASTER™ HUNTER SERIES 600

The Mainframe and its attachments are made of heavy gauge steel components. (Drag, Cultipacker Roller, Seeder Assembly).

(refer to the diagram on page 8 to locate each of the below listed)

(A. Cultipacker Roller)

The roller is designed for compaction of the soil over the seed for greater germination of what has been planted. The roller can also be used for added weight during tillage.

(B. Leverage Tool)

The Leverage Bar is used to aid in folding and unfolding the Cultipacker Roller. The (2) studs on the Leverage Bar can be used to lock the Roller to the Drag Bar when in the folded position. Use designated holes for desired use.

(C. Drag Bar w/Metal Grating)

The Drag bar and/or Metal grating is used for either leveling uneven areas or for covering larger seed such as beans, peas, oats and rye that require more soil coverage to germinate. The Drag Bar can be used with or without using the Metal Grating.

(D. Disconnect for Drag/Cultipacker)

These Bent pins can be removed to disconnect the Drag/Cultipaker Components from the unit if the user wishes to do tillage only without dragging or rolling the area tilled.

(E. Seeder Motor w/Cover) (PT# SA-29-2823)

The Electric Seeder Motor's are activated by the in-line ON/OFF switch. These motors (1 per seeder assembly) drive the spiral brush that dispenses the seed. ***(Versa Seeder)***

(F. Seed Flow Control Handle)

The Seed Control Handles allow you to adjust the rate of seed dispensed depending upon the size seed you are planting. The 0-10 Scale helps in determining the diameter of the opening. Smaller seed will be the low end, 0-2, and Larger seed will be the high end, 3-10.

(G. -R/L- Electric Seeder Assembly)

The Seeder is where your seed is dispensed from;
The H-600 maximum capacity is 50# of seed per Seeder Box. (100# total)
The H-800 maximum capacity is 60# of seed per Seeder Box. (120# total)

DETAILS ABOUT YOUR PLOTMASTER™ HUNTER SERIES 600

(H. Linkage Rod Connections for Seeder Assembly)

The Seed Flow Control Handle connects to the Slide Adjustments located on each box. The Control Handle and Linkage Rods in conjunction with the Slide adjustment activates the seed flow control from the Seeder Assembly.

(I. "V" Shaped Rear Gang Assembly)

(8—4 per axle) 16" Disk on a 1" Axle with stamped sealed bearings for longer life and extended use of your equipment for many years. The rear disk are set up to pull tilled soil inward, this is the soil that the front disc have tilled and thrown outward. *This tillage design creates an optimal seed bed for any type seeds to be planted including Grass Seed!*

(J. Plow Carrier with (3) 4" Sweep Plow Tips)

The Sweep Plow gives tillage three advantages; (1) It works as a center buster between the 2 sets of disk gangs. (2) It helps pull the unit into the ground for increased tillage. (3) Aids in breaking up roots and heavy vegetation prior to planting.

(K. Plow Carrier Depth Adjustment)

The Sweep Plow has (4) depth adjustments. No matter the amount of vegetation your are working with or the depth you wish to till your soil these adjustments will help you achieve your goal.

(L. Storage)

This is where your Instruction Manual is kept for in-field reference. It can also be used to store extra plow tips, hardware or small tools.

(M. Adjustment for Front Gang Assembly)

The Front Gang Assembly can be adjusted to (4) positions depending on the amount of tillage desired . Shown with gang set in first pin position this is the least aggressive, each position that the top plate is moved back the tillage becomes more aggressive.

(N. Adjustable Front Gang Assembly)

(8—4 per axle) 18" Disk on a 1" Axle with stamped sealed bearings for longer life and extended use of your equipment for many years.

(O. On/Off Switch with Extensions)

The In-Line Switch is used to turn ON/OFF the seeder motor.
Replacement Fuse—30 AMP SLOW BLOW FUSE—On/Off Switch and Fuse Holders can be purchased separately.....

DIAGRAM OF HUNTER SERIES 600

A. CULTIPACKER ROLLER

B. LEVERAGE BAR FOR ROLLER

C. DRAG BAR WITH METAL GRATING

D. CONNECTING PIN FOR DRAG/CULTIPACKER

E. SEEDER MOTOR WITH COVER

F. SEEDER GATE HANDLE

G. RIGHT/LEFT SEEDER ASSEMBLY

H. LINKAGE ROD CONNECTOR (Older Models)

I. "V" SHAPED REAR GANG ASSEMBLY

J. PLOW BAR WITH 4" SWEEP PLOW TIPS

K. PLOW BAR ADJUSTING POINT

L. INSTRUCTION MANUAL CARRIER

M. ADJUSTMENT FOR FRONT GANG ASSEMBLY

N. ADJUSTABLE FRONT GANG ASSEMBLY

O. ON/OFF SWITCH WITH EXTENSIONS

REFER TO PAGES 6, 7, 14, 15, 16 & 17 FOR MORE DETAILS ON COMPONENTS.

DETAILS ABOUT YOUR PLOTMASTER™ HUNTER SERIES 800

The Mainframe and its attachments are made of heavy gauge steel components. (Drag, Cultipacker Roller, Seeder Assembly).

(refer to the diagram on page 8 to locate each of the below listed)

(A. Cultipacker Roller)

The roller is designed for compaction of the soil over the seed for greater germination of what has been planted. The roller can also be used for added weight during tillage.

(B. Leverage Tool)

The Leverage Bar is used to aid in folding and unfolding the Cultipacker Roller. The (2) studs on the Leverage Bar can be used to lock the Roller to the Drag Bar when in the folded position. Use designated holes for desired use.

(C. Drag Bar w/Metal Grating)

The Drag bar and/or Metal grating is used for either leveling uneven areas or for covering larger seed such as beans, peas, oats and rye that require more soil coverage to germinate. The Drag Bar can be used with or without using the Metal Grating.

(D. Disconnect for Drag/Cultipacker)

These Bent pins can be removed to disconnect the Drag/Cultipaker Components from the unit if the user wishes to do tillage only without dragging or rolling the area tilled.

(E. Seeder Motor's w/Cover) (PT# SA-29-2823)

The Electric Seeder Motor's are activated by the in-line ON/OFF switch. These motors (1 per seeder assembly) drive the spiral brush that dispenses the seed. ***(Versa Seeder)***

(F. Seed Flow Control Handle)

The Seed Control Handles allow you to adjust the rate of seed dispensed depending upon the size seed you are planting. The 0-10 Scale helps in determining the diameter of the opening. Smaller seed will be the low end, 0-2, and Larger seed will be the high end, 3-10.

(G. -R/L- Electric Seeder Assembly)

The Seeder is where your seed is dispensed from;
The H-600 maximum capacity is 50# of seed per Seeder Box. (100# total)
The H-800 maximum capacity is 60# of seed per Seeder Box. (120# total)

DETAILS ABOUT YOUR PLOTMASTER™ HUNTER SERIES 800

(H. Linkage Rod Connections for Seeder Assembly)

The Seed Flow Control Handle connects to the Slide Adjustments located on each box. The Control Handle and Linkage Rods in conjunction with the Slide adjustment activates the seed flow control from the Seeder Assembly.

(I. "V" Shaped Rear Gang Assembly)

(12—6 per axle) 16" Disk on a 1" Axle with stamped sealed bearings for longer life and extended use of your equipment for many years. The rear disk are set up to pull tilled soil inward, this is the soil that the front disc have tilled and thrown outward. *This tillage design creates an optimal seed bed for any type seeds to be planted including Grass Seed!*

(J. Plow Carrier with (5) 4" Sweep Plow Tips)

The Sweep Plow gives tillage three advantages; (1) It works as a center buster between the 2 sets of disk gangs. (2) It helps pull the unit into the ground for increased tillage. (3) Aids in breaking up roots and heavy vegetation prior to planting.

(K. Plow Carrier Depth Adjustment)

The Sweep Plow has (4) depth adjustments. No matter the amount of vegetation your are working with or the depth you wish to till your soil these adjustments will help you achieve your goal.

(L. Storage)

This is where your Instruction Manual is kept for in-field reference. It can also be used to store extra plow tips, hardware or small tools.

(M. Adjustment for Front Gang Assembly)

The Front Gang Assembly can be adjusted to (4) positions depending on the amount of tillage desired . Shown with gang set in first pin position this is the least aggressive, each position that the top plate is moved back the tillage becomes more aggressive.

(N. Adjustable Front Gang Assembly)

(12—6 per axle) 18" Disk on a 1" Axle with stamped sealed bearings for longer life and extended use of your equipment for many years.

(O. On/Off Switch with Extensions)

The In-Line Switch is used to turn ON/OFF the seeder motor.
Replacement Fuse—30 AMP SLOW BLOW FUSE—On/Off Switch and Fuse Holders can be purchased separately.....

DIAGRAM OF HUNTER SERIES 800

A. CULTIPACKER ROLLER

B. LEVERAGE BAR FOR ROLLER

C. DRAG BAR WITH METAL GRATING

D. CONNECTING PIN FOR DRAG/CULTIPACKER

E. SEEDER MOTOR WITH COVER

F. SEEDER GATE HANDLE

G. RIGHT/LEFT SEEDER ASSEMBLY

H. LINKAGE ROD CONNECTOR (Older Models)

I. "V" SHAPED REAR GANG ASSEMBLY

J. PLOW BAR WITH 4" SWEEP PLOW TIPS

K. PLOW BAR ADJUSTING POINT

L. INSTRUCTION MANUAL CARRIER

M. ADJUSTMENT FOR FRONT GANG ASSEMBLY

N. ADJUSTABLE FRONT GANG ASSEMBLY

O. ON/OFF SWITCH WITH EXTENSIONS

REFER TO PAGES 6, 7, 14, 15, 16 & 17 FOR MORE DETAILS ON COMPONENTS.

VERSA SEEDER ASSEMBLY

THE “SPLATTER PLATES” ARE DESIGNED TO ALLOW SEED TO SCATTER AND SPREAD EVENLY.

THE PLATES ARE ADJUSTABLE AND CAN DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF THE SEED WHEN DISPENSING.
VERTICAL: DROPS SEED DIRECTLY BEHIND THE UNIT
HORIZONTAL: SPLATTERS SEED MORE WIDELY.

THE “SPIRAL BRUSH” IS DESIGNED TO MOVE, MIX AND DISPENSE SEED TO THE TEAR DROP HOLES IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SEED BOX.

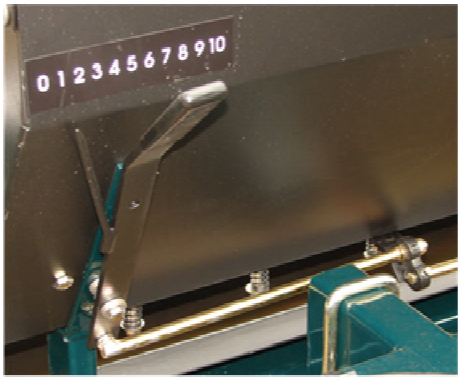
THIS ENSURES AN EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF SEED AS WELL AS BLENDING MIXED SIZED SEEDS.

VERSA SEEDER ASSEMBLY

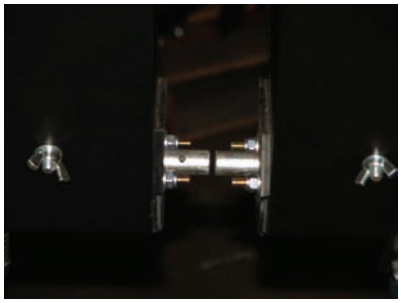
(Above) Prop arm for Seed Box Lid

(L) Seeder Motor Cover

(R) ON/OFF Switch, Battery Clips and Cable Extensions to control Seeder Motor



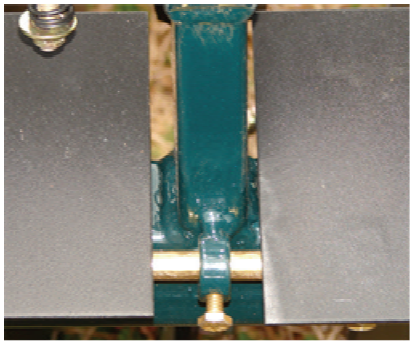
(Above) Seed Gate Control Handle



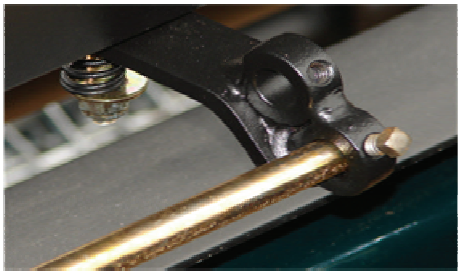
(L) Older Models have Coupler Joining Right and Left Versa Seeder Agitator Shafts

NEWER MODELS DO NOT HAVE THE ADJOINING BOXES AND RUN (2) SEPARATE MOTORS FOR SEEDING. THIS IS ALSO FOR STRIP PLANTING OF TWO SIMILAR SIZE

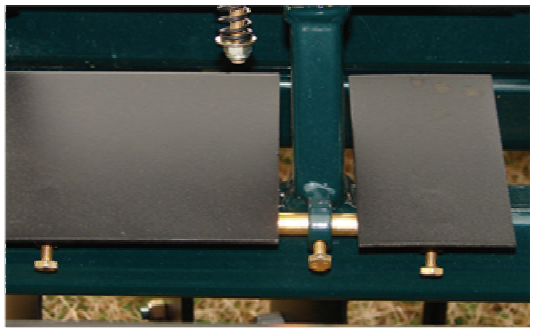
(Above) Primary Linkage rod connecting Seed Gate Handle to Slide Adjustment (Units with (2) motors will only have the Primary adjustment (1) per box)



(L) Adjusting Bolt located on Seeder "Y" Bracket This is for adjusting all Splatter Shields at the same time. There are (2) Adjusting Bolts per Seed Box.



(Above) Secondary Linkage rod connecting Primary Linkage rod to Slide Adjustment on second Seed Box (Older Models)
(Units with (2) motors will only have the Primary adjustment (1) per box)



(Above) Additional Adjusting Bolt located on Splatter Shields. This is for adjusting a single Splatter Shield. There are (4) Additional Adjusting Bolts per Box.

CULTIPACKER ASSEMBLY

(Above) Cultipacker Stop on Main Frame

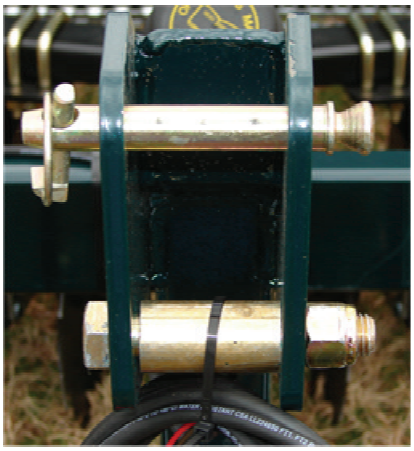
(Above) Pin Assembly that holds Drag/Cultipacker This Pin can be removed if the user wishes to do Tillage only w/o Leveling with the Drag

(Above) Hard Rubber Stop for Cultipacker Roller to rest on Drag Arm when not in use. Grease Zerk on Pillow block bearing needs to be filled periodically

(Above) Pillow Block Bearing Set Screw needs to be tighten after initial use. Make periodic checks thereafter

(Above) Leverage Bar helps in Folding up and folding back the Cultipacker Roller

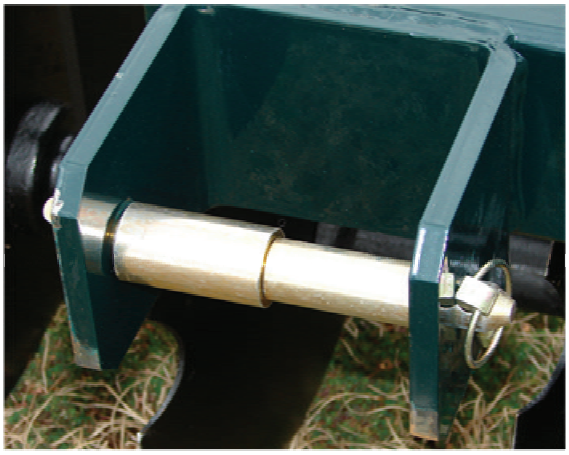
3 POINT HOOK-UP



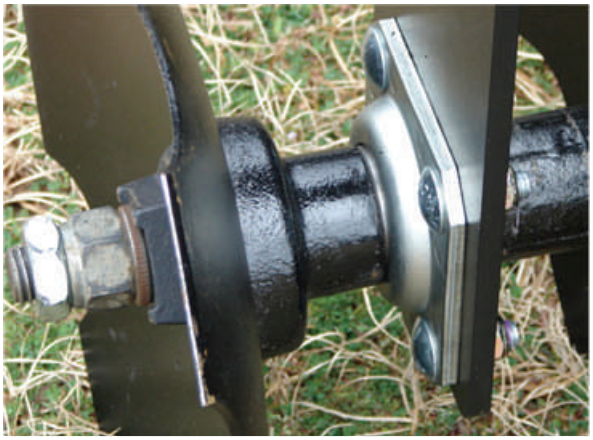
(Right) Top Link Pin with Clip and bolt for I-Match Connection.

(Left) Lift Arm Pin with Clip and (2) Size Sleeves for correct fit of Lift Arms.

I-Match Compatible



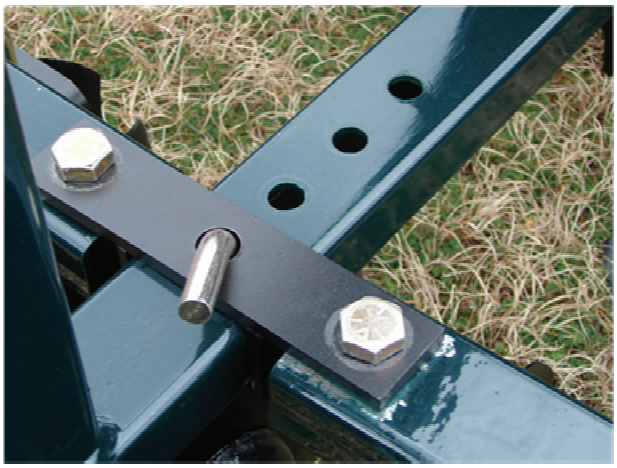
GANG ASSEMBLY



(Above) Non-Greasable Sealed Bearings are used on both front and rear gang assemblies. These increase longer life and dependable use of your unit for years to come.

(Above) Side view of unit showing the front gang assembly set to throw tilled dirt outward and the rear gang assembly set for additional tillage and for pulling the tilled dirt from the front gang assembly inward, thus creating an optimal seed bed.

(Above) The Rear "V" Shaped Gang Assembly has a fixed position and is set at a pre-determined angle for maximum tillage. The rear disk can also be used to place soil on top of seed. Depending on travel speed and top link adjustment the soil disturbance can help the dirt flow on top of the seed.



(Above) The Front Gang Assembly has (4) positions that the Gang Assembly can be adjusted. The Front Pin Hole (Shown Above) is the least aggressive and each pin hole moving back will put the gang assembly into more aggressive positions.

AVAILABLE PLOW TIPS

Right Turning Plow Tips

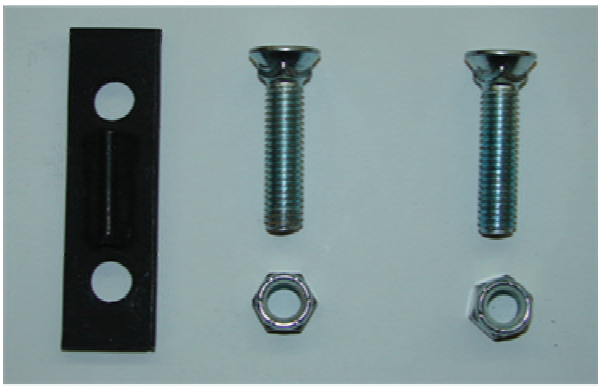
Reversible Tooth Point Tips

Turning Plow Tips – Part# TP-2R

Are used for increased tillage and for added down pressure. This Turning Tip also works great on breaking up virgin soils and cultivating areas with sod and/or vegetation prior to preparing your plots for planting. These turning tips act like small moldboard plows cutting and turning over sod and/or vegetation which makes it easier for you to cultivate and plant your plots. These turning tips also increase the down pressure on your Plotmaster forcing the discs deeper into your soils for increased tillage.

Additional Hardware needed to attach these tips to your existing "S" Tines

Tip Lock	(1) Per "S" Tine
7/16" x 2" Plow Bolt	(2) Per "S" Tine
7/16" Nylock Nut	(2) Per "S" Tine



Reversible Tooth Spikes/Chisel Plow Tips– Part# PA-9

Are also used for increased tillage and for added down pressure. This Reversible Tip works great to break up hard, compacted soils as well as virgin soils prior to preparing your plots for planting. These extra sharp spikes/chisel points penetrate the soil with ease and increase the down pressure forcing the discs deeper into your soils for increased tillage.

PLOTMASTER™ HUNTER 600

<u>Recommended use:</u> Tractor 40 HP and up

<u>Unit Includes:</u>

- **3 Point Hitch, I Match compatible, Dual Disc Harrow, Center Plow with (3) 4" Sweep Plow Tips, Electric Versa Seeder, Cultipacker/Drag with Metal Grating.**

<u>Dimensions:</u>

- **Length w/Cultipacker Folded: 100 "**
- **Length w/Cultipacker Extended: 124 "**
- **Width: 80"**
- **Height: 46"**
- **Weight: 1378#**

<u>Disc Harrow:</u>

- **16 Heavy-Duty Notched Disc with Sealed Bearings**
  - **(Front Disc Adjustable/Rear Disk Fixed/Adjustable Plow Attachment)**
- **Maximum cutting width: 72"**

<u>Versa Seeder System:</u>

- **New, Patent-Pending *Versa Seeder*, Reverse Auger Brush System designed to plant all types of seeds and seed blends.**

Hunter 600 Seed Chart

Seed	lbs per Acre	Gate Setting	Speed
Alfa-Feast	10	2	5
Alfalfa	18	4	7
Buckbean	6.5	3	3
Bucks and Bosses	8	2	4
Chicory	3	3	5
Clovers	10	1	4
Cow Pea	25	3	5.5
Lablab	20	5	6
Lablab Plus	20	5	6
Max Attract 50/50	40	6	6
Millet	10	2	4
Monster Mix	8	1	4
Oats	128	5	3.5
Pea Patch	20	5.5	7
Rye	168	6	2.5
Rye Grass	25	5	5
Sorghum	30	4	4.5
Soybean	70	4.5	3.5
Sunflowers	25	5.5	5
Ultra Forage	9	4	7
Upland Gamebird	20	6	7
Wheat/Triticale	80	4.5	4
NWGS	**lbs per Acre**	**Gate Setting**	**Speed**
Blend: Little Blue stem, Big Blue stem, Indian grass, Switch grass, and Partridge Pea	6	7-10	5

The above Seed Charts, Planting Rates, and Seeder Settings are general GUIDELINEs and may not be exact due to variances in seed sizes, species of seed, and whether or not seeds have been coated and/or pre-inoculated. Therefore, depending on your planting needs, you may have to make minor adjustments to these recommended settings in order to establish your individual planting rates.

PLOTMASTER™ HUNTER 800

<u>Recommended use:</u> Tractor 60 HP and up

<u>Unit Includes:</u>

- **3 Point Hitch, I Match compatible, Dual Disc Harrow, Center Plow with (5) 4" Sweep Plow Tips, Electric Versa Seeder, Cultipacker/Drag with Metal Grating.**

<u>Dimensions:</u>

- **Length w/Cultipacker Folded: 100 "**
- **Length w/Cultipacker Extended: 124 "**
- **Width: 104"**
- **Height: 46"**
- **Weight: 1450#**

<u>Disc Harrow:</u>

- **24 Heavy-Duty Notched Disc with Sealed Bearings**
  - **(Front Disc Adjustable/Rear Disk Fixed/Adjustable Plow Attachment)**
- **Maximum cutting width: 92"**

<u>Versa Seeder System:</u>

- **New, Patent-Pending *Versa Seeder*, Reverse Auger Brush System designed to plant all types of seeds and seed blends.**

Hunter 800 Seed Chart

Seed	lbs per Acre	Gate Setting	Speed
Alfa-Feast	10	3	7
Alfalfa	18	7	10
Buckbean	6.5	5	5
Bucks and Bosses	8	5	8
Chicory	3	5	7
Clovers	10	3	7
Cow Pea	25	5	9
Lablab	20	9	8
Lablab Plus	20	9	8
Max Attract 50/50	40	10	8
Millet	10	3	6
Monster Mix	8	2	6
Oats	128	9	5
Pea Patch	20	10	9
Rye	168	10	3
Rye Grass	25	9	7
Sorghum	30	7	6
Soybean	70	8	5
Sunflowers	25	10	8
Ultra Forage	9	7	10
Upland Gamebird	20	10	10
Wheat/Triticale	80	8	6
NWGS	**lbs per Acre**	**Gate Setting**	**Speed**
Blend: Little Blue stem, Big Blue stem, Indian grass, Switch grass, and Partridge Pea	6	7-10	5

The above Seed Charts, Planting Rates, and Seeder Settings are general GUIDELINEs and may not be exact due to variances in seed sizes, species of seed, and whether or not seeds have been coated and/or pre-inoculated. Therefore, depending on your planting needs, you may have to make minor adjustments to these recommended settings in order to establish your individual planting rates.

TWO SEASONS, TWO NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

The whitetail's nutritional needs can be divided into two parts and two needs: warm-season (spring-summer) protein need and cool-season (fall-winter) energy need. Happily, the needs of both bucks and does are virtually identical during both periods, but for different reasons.

Warm-Season "Management" Plots

During the warm season, bucks are in their annual antler growth cycle. They start out having to rebuild muscle and mass lost during the stressful rut and winter. From early spring through summer, protein is of the utmost importance in both growing antlers and rebuilding muscle and body mass. If protein is in short supply, the body gets first dibs and antler size suffers. During this time, does also need to regain muscle and body mass lost during the winter. Also like bucks, they need to nourish something growing rapidly – developing fetuses and later nursing fawns. All this takes lots of protein.

If you want more and bigger deer that stay close to home, you've got to plant warm-season plots. You can't have a serious nutritional management program otherwise. Tecomate built its reputation on unsurpassed warm-season products. Typically, legumes are employed to meet warm-season protein requirements. Lablab, cowpeas, soybeans, clover, medics and alfalfa are all legumes. There are annual and perennial legumes, and some types of legumes will grow practically everywhere. Chicory & forbs are right up there with legumes for protein. Though considered a cool-season plant, its heat and drought resistance make it an important protein source during the warm-season. Contrary to popular belief, corn, sorghum and milo are not good summer sources of protein. And brassicas, i.e., rape, kale and turnips, are not good choices for summer protein because of low palatability while actively growing.

Cool-Season "Hunting" Plots

During the cool period, bucks and does need energy to fuel rutting activity and to ward off winter's cold; otherwise, they'll burn muscle and fat and consume body reserves. Retaining more muscle and body mass entering the spring means bigger antlers and healthier fawns. So, cool-season food plots need to both attract deer for hunting and provide lots of energy.

Fast-growing annuals have been the traditional cool-season choice. Cereal grains, such as oats, triticale, rye and wheat, are favorites and excellent sources of energy. In the North, brassicas are popular and will attract deer once "frost-cured" and their sugar content increases. Unfortunately, if you only plant cereal grains, brassicas or any other single species, the nutritional value is largely limited to fall, with little carryover into spring. A much better plan is to include clovers, winter peas, vetch and/or chicory with fast-growing, high-energy annuals. By doing so, you not only get better attraction, but you'll also deliver essential nutrition in late winter/spring, a critical time in deer herds everywhere. That's the logic behind our fall annuals – we added chicory and a variety of legumes to grain-based Max-Attract 50/50 and brassica-based Ultra-Forage. By the way, deer can readily break down protein into energy, thus legumes and chicory are also important sources of fall energy.

How to Calibrate Plotmaster Seeders

To determine the seeding rate for any type seed when using the Plotmaster seeder, you need to know two things: a) seed coverage area and b) the amount of seed used to cover this area.

To determine the seeding rate you must do the following:

Weigh a small amount of the seed (in pounds) you wish to plant.
Place the small amount of seed that you weighed into seeder hopper
Open the seed gate until the first seed falls out
(open until the first largest seed falls out if it is a seed blend).
Note this seed setting for future reference. Turn on seeder motor.
Plant seed at the desired depth using a constant speed (usually between 4- 8 mph).
Once all the seed has been dispensed out of your seeder, you must now determine the distance (in feet) that you covered (planted) with that amount of seed.
You must also measure the planting width (in feet) of the Plotmaster seeder

Use the following formulas to determine the seeding rate:

$$\textbf{Seeding Rate} = \frac{\textbf{Amount of Seed (lbs)}}{\textbf{Coverage Area (acres)}}$$

$$\textbf{Coverage Area} = \frac{\textbf{Distance Covered (feet) x Planting Width (feet)}}{\textbf{43,560 (square feet in one acre)}}$$

Example:

You are using the Hunter 600 which has a 5-foot planting width (without grain drill attachment). You weigh 3 pounds of seed and place it in the seeder. You open the seed gate until the first seed comes out (ex. setting #5 on the seeder). You travel at the constant speed of 4 mph for a distance of 700 feet before the 3 pounds of seed is completely dispensed. What is your seeding rate?

$$\textbf{Coverage Area} = \frac{\textbf{Distance Covered (feet) x Planting Width (feet)}}{\textbf{43,560 (square feet in one acre)}} = \frac{\textbf{700 feet x 5 feet}}{\textbf{43,560}}$$

Coverage Area = .08 acres

$$\textbf{Seeding Rate} = \frac{\textbf{Amount of Seed (lbs)}}{\textbf{Coverage Area (acres)}} = \frac{\textbf{3 lbs}}{\textbf{.08 acres}} = \textbf{37.5 lbs per acre}$$

Note: You can increase your seeding rate by increasing the opening or seed setting on your seeder (ex. going from setting #5 to setting #6) or by decreasing your speed of travel (ex. going from 4 mph to 3 mph).

You can decrease your seeding rate by decreasing the opening or seed setting on your seeder (ex. going from setting #5 to setting #4) or by increasing your speed of travel (ex. going from 4 mph to 5 mph).

Each time you change the type of seed used, seeder settings and/or your speed of travel, you will change your seeding rate. Therefore, you must recalculate your seeding rate each time you change seed types, seeder settings and/or speed of travel.

GIVE US YOUR FEED BACK

THE PLOTMASTER™ CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT:

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BE SURE TO FILL OUT AND RETURN YOUR WARRANTY CARD ACCOMPANIED BY THE SERIAL# (LOCATED ON THE FRONT OF YOUR UNIT)