



**Improving Plant Performance**

## **Planting Seed Blends of Different Sizes**

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It appears as though the trend in today's Food Plots is to find the perfect blend of varieties to plant in our food plots. This is a great concept that can create a real challenge to sound practices. I know because we recently planted a combination of sorghum, iron-clay peas, alyce clover and vetch. Last summer we planted soybeans, corn, sorghum, cow peas and lablab. Last Fall it was oats, wheat, rye, rape, and clover.

We prepare the ground, apply fertilizer, broadcast the seed with a spin spreader and cover up the seed. Everybody gets treated the same. No seed gets neglected or mistreated. Do I sound like one of a family of six. I was the middle child of six. Check the math!

Yes, we incorporate the seed, all of it, tiny seed, huge seed and everything in between at the same planting depth. Then we wonder why some varieties come up sooner and healthier than others. If we are shallow, the little guys come up and the big boys suffer. If we are too deep, the big boys shout out of the ground and we decide that the little seed must have been bad seed if it did not come up at all. Or maybe we get lucky, we get the perfect slow rain and everybody emerges healthy. Further, we all know the accuracy of depth of incorporation when using a disc. And yes, at ***DeltAg***, we prefer to plant in the same manner as most hunters or we won't learn how to help with the knowledge and experience we have.



There is no way to fix this problem when time is limited and we have one shot at getting it right. So we end up planting these blends with some seed too deep or some seed too shallow or some of both. The best recommendation we can make goes back to soil preparation. If we can prep the ground and get it well broken

and then smooth out the ridges created by the disc, then we have a chance of getting more of the different seed varieties out of the ground and growing.

Seed are designed to generate enough energy to swell with moisture, sprout and push, expelling lots of energy to emerge out of the ground. This burning of energy creates the need for the newly emerged seedling to finally get to take a nap, or sit and rest while it begins to take in sunlight and make more energy. This stage is referred to as the '**Lag Phase**'. When in this lag phase the seedling plants become more susceptible to additional stress from cold or dry weather, high winds and disease. Now the plants are in really big trouble. A plant determines its potential to produce and grow in the first three weeks of life. When this stress sets in, the plants are set back and growth is delayed or slowed down and the problems become even more intense.

Frankly, our solution is to apply **DeltAg Seed Coat** (formerly Grow Coat) to your seed the day you plant to give it all the vigor you can to help overcome these soil depth differences, the lag phase and other stress. Remember that soil depth differences for your seed means soil moisture differences as well. **DeltAg Seed Coat** supplies additional vitamins and enzymes, helping boost plants through the lag phase.

The neat thing about **DeltAg Seed Coat** is that it is non-selective and works on any seed. It is used on everything from grass seed to soybean seed, from the smallest to the largest, with the same impact on seedling vigor. Get your seed out of the ground, up and growing with **DeltAg Seed Coat**!