

Instruction Manual Six-Row Seeder

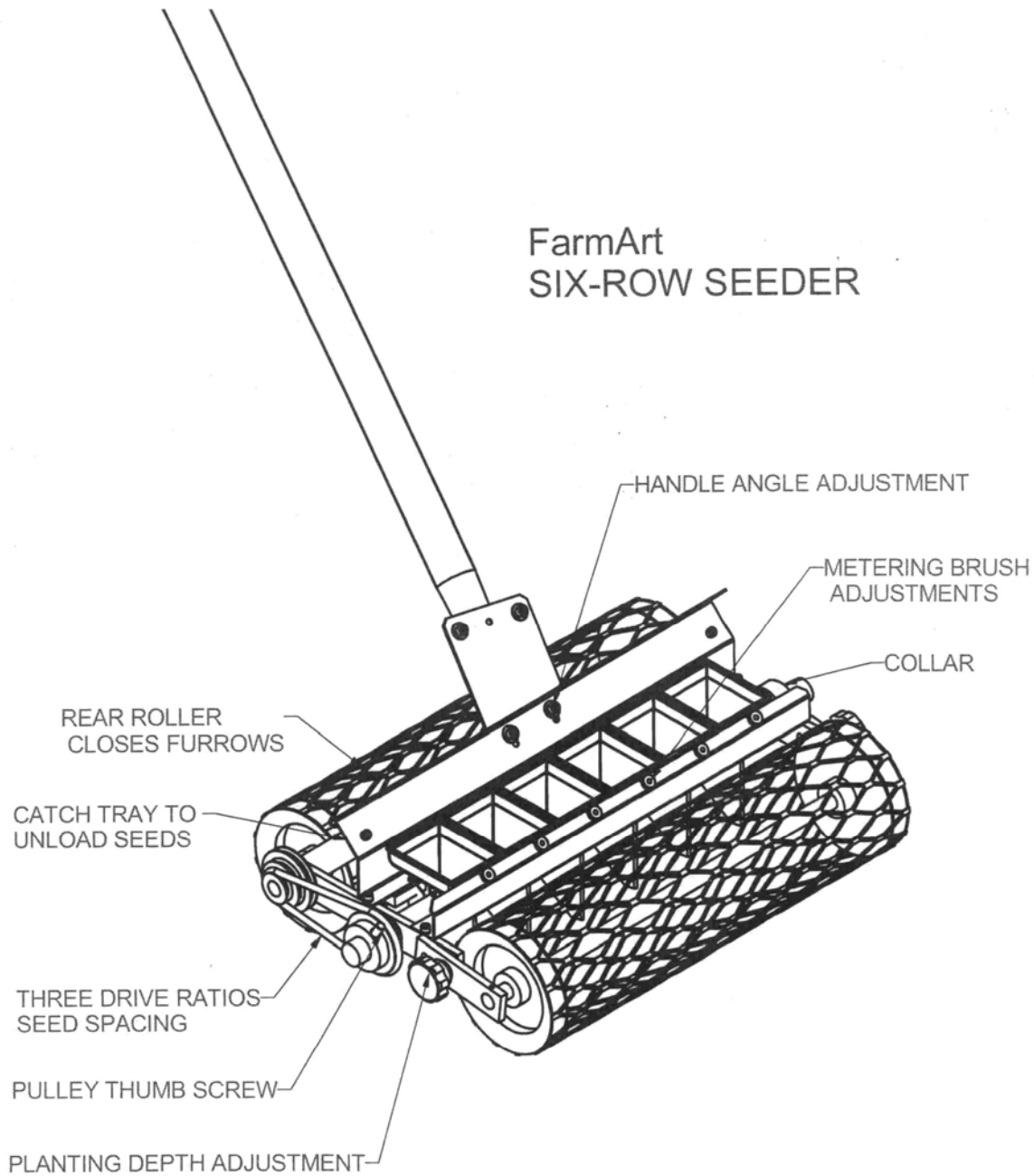


Figure 1

Assembly Instructions:

To attach the handle, loosen the two upper socket head screws. Insert the handle until it is snug in the lower pipe clamp. The Johnny's logo should face upward when done. Tighten the upper socket head screws. Drill a 5/32" diameter hole in the handle through the hole in the mounting bracket and install the wood screw supplied.

Adjustments:

Handle Adjustment:

To adjust the handle left or right, loosen the two lower socket head screws, move the handle and retighten.

Planting depth:

Loosen the two knobs and pivot the front roller up or down.

Seed Spacing:

Seed Spacing is controlled by the belt driven metering roll. The belt ratio controls the spacing.

To drop seeds every 1 inch, put the belt on the inboard pulleys.

To drop seeds every 2 ½ inches, put the belt on the middle pulleys.

To drop seeds every 4 inches, put the belt on the outboard pulleys.

Using the Six Row Seeder

The effectiveness of a tool depends on the care taken by the tool user. Here are some suggestions.

If the seeder surfaces are wet, seeds will stick, and the seeder won't work properly.

The purpose of the brush is to allow a seed to pass when it is in a hole but to hold back other seeds. Large seeds such as beets require the brush to be set relatively high so it doesn't push the seeds out of the hole. If the seeds are small and if the brushes are set too high, seeds can jam under the sides of the brush and cause the seed shaft to stop turning. The gap under the brush should always be less than half the smallest dimension of the seed being sown. To adjust a brush, put a few seeds in the hopper and turn the metering shaft so you can judge whether it is allowing seeds in the hole to pass but holding back others. The thumbscrew is used to adjust the height of the brushes. Turning it clockwise raises the brush. To lower the brush you must turn the thumbscrew counterclockwise and push it towards the metering shaft. Getting all six hoppers to feed at the same rate requires careful adjustment of the brushes. One method is to tilt the seeder up on the front roller at a 45 degree angle and watch the seed slide down the inside of the shoes as you turn the back roller forward. Adjust the brushes until all six are feeding at the same rate.

The Six-Row Seeder has four hole sizes. The metering shaft hole size is selected by loosening the screw on the pulley and the screw on the collar on the opposite end. Detents are located in the bottom of the slot on the metering roll for the screw to engage. Slide the collar over to prevent side play, leave a slight gap between the body of the seeder and the collar. The metering shaft should turn freely.

Spend some time before sowing any seed to determine the ideal hole size, brush setting, and drive ratio. A letter code can be used to identify the hole sizes such as A is the smallest and D is the largest. Another letter code, T – tight, N – normal, L – loose can be used to identify the brush setting. The sowing density for small seeds can also be changed by adjusting the drive ratio for the metering shaft. This can be recorded with the numbers 1, 2.5, and 4. To get started, fill one hopper and roll the seeder forward on a piece of paper. Count the seeds dropped and notice the spacing. When you find what works best, write it on the seed packet and/or in a notebook. Fill the other hoppers and adjust their brushes as previously described until the drop rate matches that of the first hopper.

The following table gives some suggested hole sizes; some experimentation will be necessary to determine the correct hole size for each seed lot. The designation “heavy” indicates the hole is too big for ideal sowing. In this case you may try increasing the drop distance for example from 1” to 2.5” by moving the belt from the innermost pulleys to the middle ones. You will want to determine the brush setting yourself based on the specific cultivar.

METER ROLL SEEDER SETTINGS:

Pocket size: A, B, C, D

Arugula	A
Beet	D
Carrot	C (pelleted), B (naked)
Claytonia	A (heavy)
Endive	A
Lettuce	C (pelleted), B (naked)
Mache	A or B (@ 2 seeds per)
Minutina	A (heavy)
Radicchio	A
Radish	C
Scallion	B
Spinach	D
Sylvetta	A (heavy)

These seeders are precision tools and should be used in finely prepared soil. Rocks, chunks of manure and compost, or stringy weed and root residues will tangle and buildup on the soil openers. The extra production per square foot that you will gain with precision seeding more than justifies the extra care in seed bed preparation.

To plant seeds push the tool forward. The expanded metal rear roller will close the furrow.

The six-row seeder plants rows 2¼ inch apart. To get different spacing fill only the hoppers desired.

To empty the seed hoppers, tilt the seeder back towards the catch tray and pour the seeds back into the seed packet.