

WHAT MAKES STRIP TILL DIFFERENT?

SOME Hidden Secrets – Roots Can Tell Us a Lot

by: **Mike Petersen, Soil Scientist/Agronomist for Orthman Manufacturing, Inc**

As we at Orthman we have studied the Strip-Till systems approach; we would like to show you a difference how Strip-Till placement of pre-plant nutrients makes a difference with GPS guidance.

Agronomically, Strip Till is Just A Smart Concept for You:

It is still relevant today to know that GPS placement of the fertilizers below where the row of seeds are placed right and the plants will engage the nutrients efficiently and most effectively to make a difference in growth of the plant and productivity. Look at the differences in the chart below:

20 Days after emergence			55 Days after emergence			100 Days after emergence		
linear dimension (inches)			linear dimension (inches)			linear dimension (inches)		
No Offset	4 in. Offset	8 in. Offset	No Offset	4 in. Offset	8 in. Offset	No Offset	4 in. Offset	8 in. Offset
480	400	189	25920	17125	15885	38210	24025	20800
Depth of Root Development			Depth of Root Development			Depth of Root Development		
22	18	13	63	55	50	68	61	58



The image to the left is what very early on the new maize plants look like when nutrient placement is directly below the seed row with accurate GPS positioning in Eastern Colorado, USA.

This study was carried out 4 years in a row. The facts tell a story that makes a difference all year long. When both the planter and the strip till pass line up perfectly, we help you gain a bigger potential crop. **Note:** Over the 4 years the average change in yield was 6 bu/ac less when 4 inches off, and at 8 inches off it was 30 bu/acre.

We at Orthman are here to make it happen; we like to “Get to Work with You”.