

"Our 4m MegaSeed will always work in every sort of ground"



Brendan O'Shea of Seamus & Brendan O'Shea Contractors, Prumplestown, Castledermot operates a trailed Rabe 4m MegaSeed with folding power harrows fitted with RIPA wedge ring rollers in the cultivation section.

County Kildare contractor Brendan O'Shea has sown 2,250 acres in his first year of Autumn and Spring drilling with their new Rabe 4m MegaSeed Min-Till drill. "It does a good job in every sort of ground" says Brendon. "It will always work no matter what type of soil you're in. We sow around 200 acres of our own ground and sow over 2000 acres on contract work. 90% of the sowing is done behind the plough. With our 185hp John Deere 7820 up front, our normal drilling speed is 9.5 to 10kmh and we usually average 60 acres per day - no problem. The most we did was 73 acres per day over 6 days. Around half our work is done on smaller contracts; the MegaSeed is great for these because we can get up to 1.5 tonnes in the hopper - all the seed we need for the one job. Sometimes we may do 3 or 4 varieties in different places in one day - the seed remaining in the hopper is soon emptied with very good access for bagging. We are soon re-loading ready for the next job."

"What I like most is the quick and easy adjustments on the MegaSeed. Coulter pressure adjustment is very simple and quick. Seed depth adjustment is quick too and takes only 30 seconds to adjust the pressure on each pair of coulters."

"I like the quick tine change too. We changed the first set of tines after 1600 acres. That was easily done as the power harrow sections fold up vertical so you can soon change the quick-fit tines without having to be under the machine. Access to all parts of the machine is so good compared to our previous machine."

"Soil consolidation on each row is good; we have the RIPA packer rollers at the front and the rubber press wheels at the back - leaving the ground above the slot nice and firm. We've had no problems with the crows; the seed is placed well down and is well firmed-in. Where slugs are a problem, we can place slug pellets down with the seed. The crops we've sown are all looking well - right through to being combined. Establishment has been nice and even across the width of the drill. We've tried some Eco-tilling on our own land too with similar results."

"If you hit any soft spots, you can use the big transport wheels to raise up the drill and get out of trouble and if you're caught in the rain as we were this Spring, we can usually finish off the job if you have to - the drill works well in all conditions."

"We do a lot of road travel between

customers - no problem. The drill's not too wide - she folds up nice and runs behind lovely and held very stable by the tractor. We can put enough seed in the big hopper to do 25-30 acres which is a great bonus on smaller jobs as we've no time lost going for re-fills."

"We also did 200 acres of Eco-Tilling this year including some on our own land. Two runs with the stubble cultivator - let the land green-up - then spray off with glyphosate. Repeat again



- then straight in with the drill."

"The drill was supplied by Gordon Hegarty & Sons. It's the first one in this area so we were both learning. They have supported us very well - nothing too serious happened and the problem was soon put right. I'd like to see a wide angle PTO shaft fitted - that's the only thing I miss - it would help with headland turning and drilling awkward fields. We've had Rabe one-pass equipment before and know the quality of the steel is very good."

"We're very happy with the Rabe MegaSeed - it does an excellent job"