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## SAFFLOWER COMBINE TIPS

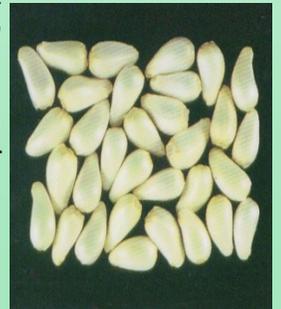
- Safflower must be 8% moisture when straight combining is attempted.
- Cylinder or rotor speed should be set between a low of 350 and 500 RPM. Each year is a little different and the speed range depends on the amount of moisture left in the stems of the safflower plants.
- Cylinder or rotor clearance is usually 1/3 to 1/2 open front and back. Safflower is usually threshed before it reaches to the cylinder or rotor, therefore the cylinder or rotor is responsible to keep the flow of material flowing to the separation area of the combine.
- Air settings for separation is usually about 10% less than the wheat settings.
- Top chaffer is set from 1/4 to 3/8 open.
- Bottom chaffer is clear closed, then move the adjustment open and stop when you feel the fins on the sieve move. This is essentially close to slightly cracked open.

Safflower can be harvested with a harvest sample containing less than 1/2% dockage. Over threshing safflower can lead to higher dockage samples. Safflower has a tremendous amount of flower parts and seed pod parts and brackets, if these are completely removed from the seed pod it can overwhelm the ability of the top chaffer to separate them. Over threshing safflower is the root of all evils to obtaining a clean sample. Keeping the safflower material on the straw walkers (conventional machines) or off the top chaffer is very important.

When the combine settings are correct, your forward speed is very similar to wheat or barley. Because safflower is spiny it usually feeds very evenly and your combine can operate at peak efficiency.

Safflower harvest does have some disadvantages. The flower parts from the seed pod do not travel through the radiator very well. I do recommend that one blows out the radiator daily with compressed air. There have been combine fires because of the flower parts build up around the radiator. Usually these fires smolder and not break out in open flame but none the less it is very important to monitor this situation.!!!

Because safflower has oil in the stem as well as the seed, oily material will build up on the cycle blades and over work the cutting bar and in some instance actually break the cycle cutting blade in half.



*This bulletin should serve as a guide for harvesting safflower. Conditions may vary in individual fields. Good harvest machine maintenance should always be followed to ensure maximum potential.*

SAFFLOWER

