



PAN ALL PULSE BULLETIN #6 - MARCH 31, 2005

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Written by:  
**Terry Aldous**  
**Sales Manager**  
**Andrukow Farm Sales Ltd.**  
**Ryley, Alberta**

“Size does matter” when it comes to seed!

It is coming to that time of year when having made the decision to seed peas you have to decide on what rate **YOU** are going to seed **YOUR** peas. The first issue you have to decide on is “*What is the final plant population that YOU want in YOUR field?*”

The plant population that you should be targeting is dependent on your particular growing conditions but generally speaking the suggested plant density that you should be targeting is 6 – 9 plants per ft<sup>2</sup>. One thing to be aware of with peas is that peas do not stool out like cereals. If there is not a viable plant in a particular spot have a reduced yield and hence a reduced income. Whatever you can do to maximize your yield potential should be your desired objective; **control the controllable** and seeding rate is one of those controllable that you manage!

At Andrukow Farm Sales we work with our clients to demonstrate why it is so important to have a clear understanding of their desired plant density before seeding. The first information that we encourage our clients to obtain is some very basic information about the actual seed they are using.

1. What is the germination percentage of the seed they are using?
2. What is the vigour rating of the seed that they are using?
3. What is the seed size or 1000 kernel weight of your seed stock?
4. What mortality do you expect from the seed actually planted?

For **YOU** to know **YOUR** seeding rate **YOU** must have these numbers.

Here are two examples for peas that definitely show that “**SIZE DOES MATTER!**”

<b>*Example 1</b>	<b>*Example 2</b>
Germination 96 %	Germination 96 %
Seed Vigour 94 %	Seed Vigour 94 %

**Mortality 10 %	**Mortality 10 %
1000 KW 260 gms	1000 KW 223 gms
Target plant population 8 per ft <sup>2</sup>	Target plant population 8 per ft <sup>2</sup>
252 lbs of seed per acre	198 lbs of seed per acre

\* Uses seed rate calculator from *Ropin the web*

\*\*Assumes a seedling mortality of 10 %. This number can be affected by many factors some of which include depth of seeding, seed treatment, speed of seeding, handling of seed, moisture percentage of seed etc.

When it comes to the 1000 kernel weight - **SIZE DOES MATTER!**

1. How much seed do you actually need to clean/buy?
2. How much seed do you actually need to treat/inoculate?
3. How much seed do you actually need to seed?
4. What yield potential do you actually have?

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The following is a link to the Seeding Rate Calculator for pulses...

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/crop/otherseedcalculator.jsp>

Calculators for other crops can be found at...

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/index.jsp?type=Crop>

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