

KNOW A GOOD CORN STAND WHEN YOU SEE IT

1. **Take a stand count and compare it to target by measuring 1/1000th of an acre**
 - In 20" rows, 1/1000th is 26' 1"
 - In 30" rows 1/1000th is 17' 5"
 - In 36" rows 1/1000th is 14' 6"
2. **Compare the stand count to the EAR COUNT**
3. **Picket fence stand**
 - Dig for missing plants to identify true skips from dead plants (record it)
 - Look for skips, doubles, and misplaced seed
 - **Identify metering issues**
 - True skips
 - True doubles
 - **Identify misplaced seeds**
 - Meter release
 - Seed tube delivery
 - Row unit bounce
 - Record if the problems exist on all rows or individual ones
4. **Photo copied plants**
 - Count leaf collars
 - First four nodes are stacked in crown
 - Check stalk diameter
 - Check maturity
 - Pull whorls
 - Count nodes
 - Pollination timing
 - Look at ear size
5. **Dig samples of good and bad plants**
 - Check planting depth
 - Look for disoriented mesocotyl
 - Look for compact crowns
6. **Furrow conditions (above ground)**
 - Check for valley left from row cleaner
 - Check for residue in row and furrow
 - Check gauge wheel footprint (tracks) or lack of
 - Look for open or cracking slot
7. **Furrow conditions (below ground)**
 - Look at the seed root first, then the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd set of true roots.
 - Look for evidence of sidewall smearing
 - Check for hatchet roots
 - Check for insect injury
 - Check for seedling blights
 - Check for fertilizer burn
 - Look for compacted lobes under gauge wheel tracks.
8. **Check for uniform pollination and ear development**
 - If growth and development of the stalk is uniform but ears are not, it is seldom a planter problem. It is usually caused by disease, insects, herbicides, or weather. ¹

¹ Missy Bauer – B&M Crop Consulting, Inc.