

HOW IT WORKS

Variocast seeders provide the next best thing to precision seeding by using individual metering rollers to feed each seed outlet.

The 150 and 400 litre Variocast hoppers have steep sides to ensure seed flows and a removable baffle plate to make sure there is always a consistent seed weight on top of the seed roller.

The metering roller is divided into 8 or 16 sections which individually meter seed down each pipe.

An agitator above the seed roller ensures even the most bulky seed flows evenly.

The original outlets are designed for overlapping full width spread but these can be altered to band the seed in 150mm to 250mm rows when working on a subsoiler seeding behind the leg.

Pneumatic seed delivery

A hydraulic fan or two 12v electric fans provide the airflow to deliver the seed down the pipe to the correct position on the machine.



Rape plant root structure on heavy land behind minimal till establishment (left) and subsoiled Till-seeding (right)

* On open free draining soil, Till-seeding provides good root structure behind shallow tine or disc cultivators, however, on compacted or heavy soils far better results are achieved by Till-seeding on a subsoiler.

...for existing users



“ We are getting a higher percentage of plants growing so we will be looking at reducing seed rates with the Variocast system ”

Fred Hildson



“ For me, the Till-Seeding system we have in place now is a straightforward technique that will work year in, year out ”

Ian Rudge



“ I have to say it has been a very good piece of kit – easy to calibrate, easy to use, and reliable ”

Charles MacLeod



“ For the first two years we had better yields over conventional cultivation methods such as discing or power harrowing or both, and then drilling and rolling, by up to 10 per cent ”

Martin Eayrs



“ There's no need for someone to prepare the ground in front of the drill, which is time consuming and costly. It's a very simple system that works ”

Tim Harvey

“ A definite win win situation... ”

Nick Myres



See all user stories in full at www.till-seeding.co.uk

OPICO VARIOCAST SEEDER OPTIONS

- 1 400 lt seedbox in lieu of 150 lt
- 2 Additional seed metering roller
- 3 Distributor holder - 1.5m & 2.0m
- 4 Additional seeder outlet
- 5 Y junction piece
- 6 Blanking roller & stopper - to reduce number of outlets (factory fitted)
- 7 Electronic controller extension cable 3m, 6m, 9m, 12m, 15m
- 8 8-Core power cable extension (without connectors) (Air 8)
- 9 Hydraulic fan in lieu of electric fans
- 10 Acoustic & visual Airflow alarm (Air 8)
- 11 Radar option in lieu of landwheel sensor

NB: Electronic controller extensions longer than 12m need to be hard wired to the seeder. Please contact OPICO



OPICO VARIOCAST SEEDER SPECIFICATIONS

| MODEL | WORKING WIDTH | SEEDBOX VOLUME | FAN TYPE | SEED OUTLETS | CONTROL | MAXIMUM SEED RATE PER HECTARE AND WORKING WIDTH <small>Dependent on forward speed</small> | WEIGHT |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Variocast 8 | Up to 6.5m | 150ltrs | 2 x Electric 12v Fans | 8 | Mechanical | 40kg when fitted to 6.0m working width 80kg when fitted to 3.0m working width | 66kg |
| Variocast 8 E | Up to 6.5m | 150ltrs | 2 x Electric 12v Fans | 8 | Electronic | 40kg when fitted to 6.0m working width 80kg when fitted to 3.0m working width | 66kg |
| Variocast 8 E Pro | Up to 6.5m* | 150ltrs | 1 x Hydraulic Fan - 20L/min | 8 | Electronic | 40kg when fitted to 6.0m working width 80kg when fitted to 3.0m working width | 90kg |
| Variocast 16 E Pro | Up to 12.5m | 400ltrs | 1 x Hydraulic Fan - 20L/min | 16 | Electronic | 40kg when fitted to 12m working width 80kg when fitted to 6.0m working width 160kg when fitted to 3.0m working width | 130kg |

*FOR FULL WIDTH SPREADING ABOVE 6.5m ADDITIONAL Y-PIECES AND OUTLETS ARE REQUIRED (MAX REC. 9.5m)
N.B. HYDRAULIC FAN REQUIRES 0 - 20 LITRES PER MINUTE MAX OIL SUPPLY AND FREE FLOW RETURN

YOUR LOCAL OPICO DEALER

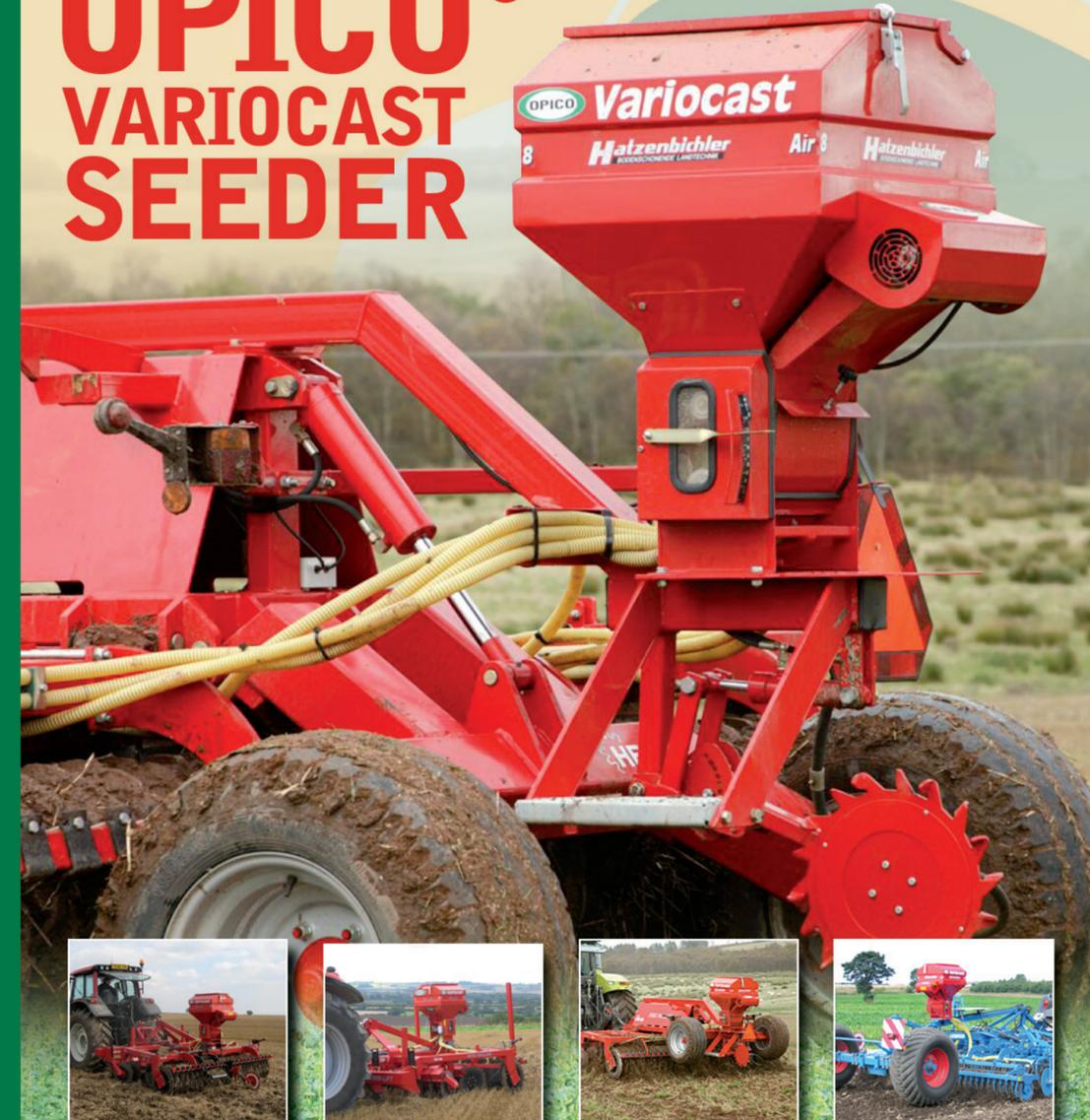
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OPICO'S VARIOCAST SEEDER



YOUR VITAL TILL-SEEDING TOOL



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VIRTUAL NO COST SEEDING



FIT FOR THE JOB - EASY TO FIT

Precise Seed Metering

Unlike most other types of seeders, the Variocast uses individual metering wheels for each seed outlet enabling extremely accurate seed metering and guaranteeing the same amount of seed is fed to each outlet.

This is crucially important when using low seed rates and small seeds for example with hybrid Oilseed Rape down to under 2kg/ha

Four types of metering rollers are available for the Variocast.



Any two of these rollers are supplied as standard with the Variocast, the third or fourth can be purchased as an extra. There are 8 seed outlets as standard but it is possible to blank off a number of them using the Blanking Roller and Stop Kit, for example for band sowing behind a 5 leg subsoiler with one outlet behind each leg.

Even Seed Distribution

Variocasts can be used to spread seed evenly across the machine width or to band sow.



HE-VA Disc Roller with the Variocast drilling Oilseed Rape on the 6/9/2004.



OPICO Variocast Seeder and MaxiLift Subsoiler.

The standard broadcasting outlets spread the seed in an overlapping pattern for an even full width coverage. Alternatively modified outlets are used to band the seed in 150 - 250mm rows. The seed placement is adjusted by changing the height of the seed outlet.

Cut seed rates and establishment costs whilst improving yields - utilise a Variocast to take advantage of Till-Seeding techniques and improve gross margins.

Accurate Seedrate Control

The amount of seed applied is controlled by the speed of the metering roller, this is adjusted until the desired seed rate is achieved



Mechanical Versions
A step-less gear box and lever are used to adjust the seed rate

Electronic Versions
The control box in the cab allows setting and adjustment on the move

Calibration
On both types of Variocast this is performed by removing the metering roller cover and using the calibration tray

Forward Speed Related Metering

All OPICO Variocast Seeders have a spoked land wheel drive to give constant forward speed related seed metering.



Example of the Variocast wheel drive on a Simba Cultipress

Electronic versions use a pulse sensor to feed information back to the control box whilst standard mechanical drive machines use a flexible drive cable connected straight to the metering gearbox.



Above left: Example of Variocast land wheel drive on a MaxiLift. Above centre: A picture of Variocast mounted on a HE-VA Disc Roller. Above right: A picture of a radar system.

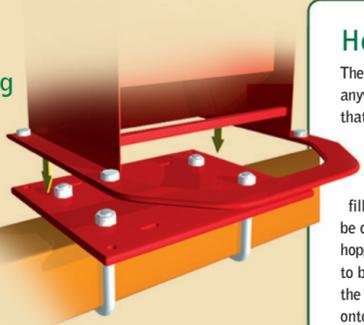
With pipe-work routed neatly around the machine's frame electric or hydraulic drive fans are used to blow seed to the outlet.



Twin 12V fans on the Variocast 8 models.

Three simple steps to mounting your Variocast for ideal seed placement

For more examples and detail on Variocast mounting please visit www.opico.co.uk



Hopper positioning

The Variocast Hopper can be mounted anywhere but it is important to ensure that the seed pipes are not too long and seed always flows downhill.

Practicalities of calibration and filling the seed hopper should always be considered when mounting the hopper. A simple base plate is provided to bolt or weld onto the implement, the Variocast can then be mounted onto this and removed if necessary.

Land drive wheel / Radar

Variocasts are capable of metering seed to within 0.1Kg/ha if required which is critically important with such expensive small seeds. The land wheel drive is an important part of this accurate metering and should be mounted out of the way of soil flow from the cultivator where it can float freely to follow the contours of the land.

A correctly positioned piece of 50mm box section is all that is required to mount the land wheel assembly. Optional radar needs to be mounted at 45 degrees from horizontal and the sensor should ideally be mounted between 60cm and 90cm above the ground to ensure an accurate reading of the forward speed. A radar cutout switch may be needed to cut off reading when turning on the headlands.

Outlets

Positioning the outlets correctly is critical for good seed placement and even seed germination. With most applications the seed outlets should be mounted just behind the final cultivation tool and in front of the press roller.

Where possible some adjustment should be designed into the mounting of the outlets to allow fine tuning of the seed placement in the field. The optional 1.5m or 2m distributor holders assist mounting the outlets and allow horizontal and vertical adjustment to alter the spread pattern.



TILL-SEEDING