## **COMPARING DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLOSING WHEELS**

<i>Type of Closing Wheel:</i>	SMOOTH OEM	SURFACE ANGLE WHEEL	CURVED SPOKE	NOTCHED SHALLOW SPOKE	SPI	KE	PLASTIC SPIKE	ANGLED SPIKE ZIPPER™	MOHAWK™
	YY YY	FAX FX	*** ***	FYX FFY	KK	X X X X	PYX Pry		A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
ON A SCALE FROM 1-10, 10 BEING THE BEST, LISTED IS HOW WELL EACH WHEEL PERFORMS ON THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:									
Sidewall breakup shatters, chunks, smears, rototills	<b>1</b> smears in wet soil like a trowel on concrete	<b>2</b> horizontal surface pack; can leave air pockets	<b>7</b> stabs & releases	<b>8</b> shatter & chunks *needs a drag chain to break up clods	2 Spikes 8 spades o *needs a dr break u	1 Spike 1 Rubber 1 or chunks ag chain to p clods	<b>6</b> stabs and leaves spade indents	<b>9</b> rototills, compacts and releases *no drag chain needed	<b>8</b> shatters, compacts and releases *no drag chain needed
Seed to soil contact how well compacts soil	1	4	3	2	0	<b>2</b> *breaks soil only on one side	7	<b>9</b> *spikes are angled, leaving releasing soil as it ex	<b>9</b> g the soil compacted while kits beside the furrow
Works in all soils cover crop, no-till, conventional	<b>5</b> fair-poor in all 3	<b>5</b> best in conventional	<b>5</b> fair in all 3	<b>5</b> fair in all 3	<b>1</b> only no-till	<b>4</b> no-till & conventional	<b>8</b> good no-till & conventional fair cover crops	<b>9</b> very good in all 3	<b>9</b> very good no-till &conventional
Depth control	9	9	5	6	1	5	7	<b>9</b> doesn't disturb the seeds	<b>9</b> doesn't disturb the seeds
Wear life	8	9	9	6	6	7	1	<b>10</b> excellent wear life	<b>10</b> excellent wear life
Overall Average	4.8	5.8	5.8	5.4	3.2	3.8	4.8	9.2	9.0

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RUNNING ZIPPERS OR MOHAWKS vs SPIKED OR CURVED CLOSING WHEELS**

The Zippers put a little more soil over the furrow especially if you are in hills or up and over terraces. They keep a down pour of rain from running down the seed V. It won't crust as bad with the Zippers when you get a hard rain shortly after planting and before the soil has had time to dry some and settle in. The Zipper closing wheels act like a rototiller as they break up the side walls, pulling in the soil while mellowing the soil around the seed to create an ideal seed bed for the seed to grow in. As the Zippers rototill the soil they also compact the soil around the seed taking out the air pockets that other spiked closing wheels leave chunks of soil and air pockets in the seed trench with poor seed to soil contact.

The Mohawk won't pull quite as much soil as the Zipper but it also does a good job in slightly hilly and flatter ground. If you already

have plastic press wheels with tires on the planter now then you can save money by installing the Mohawks in the plastic rims you already have. The Mohawk and Zipper are two of the most reasonably priced closing wheels on the market. The Zippers pull soil about 1/2" to 3/4" farther away from the furrow that any other wheel on the market, which makes them the choice when farming contours or up and down hills.

Differences of Mohawks and Zippers compared to a straight fingered or curved finger wheel:

1: Some of the straight finger wheels will re-loosen the soil as they exit which can cause the seed V to dry out and create germination problems. The Mohawks' and Zippers' wheel spokes are angled such and as they exit the soil the angle of the teeth on the Mohawks

## and Zippers release the soil leaving it compacted around the seed eliminating air pockets in the seed trench.

2: A lot of the straight finger wheel companies want you to run one chains are not needed behind the Zippers or Mohawks because rubber wheel and one spike wheel so the spike wheels don't spade they leave the seed V area compacted and smooth. up seeds. They can go too deep if you run both. Most of the straight fingered wheels chunk soil into the seed V leaving air pockets that 4: Many of the plastic made spiked wheels wear out within a couple can cause leafing out underground. You can run both Mohawks and of years running. The Zippers and Mohawks will wear out several Zippers because they don't go too deep and they don't chunk the soil planters before they need to be replaced. in or spade up seeds in the seed V. Why not break both sides of the 5: Many of the spiked wheels on the market wrap or plug in cover seed trench by mellowing/compacting the soil over the seed, rather crops. The Zippers and Mohawks are less likely to plug or wrap in than spading or chunking one or both side walls like most straight heavy cover crops and we have a solution if they start to plug. spiked wheels do, thus giving you better seed to soil contact by rototilling both sides in of the row with the Zippers and Mohawks.

3: Many of the straight finger closing wheels have to drag a chain behind the closing wheels to smooth up or level out the row and crumble clods left behind by the spading or chunking wheels. **Drag chains are not needed behind the Zippers or Mohawks because they leave the seed V area compacted and smooth.**