Silver Innovation Award for Pöttinger:

Camera assisted seedbed preparation

Best quality tilth and optimum seedbed preparation are essential for successful seed germination and growth. Ideally, the seedbed should be as coarse as possible and as fine as necessary. In practice, it is a challenge to select the right soil tillage intensity to match each crop. The main issue is to avoid ponding and crust forming in silty soils. In addition, cultivating the soil too finely opens up the opportunity for erosion, making it easier for fine soil particles and valuable capital to be washed away.

The award-winning development by Pöttinger - camera assisted seedbed preparation focuses precisely on this issue to enable consistent and optimised seedbed preparation and seed placement regardless soil condition changes in the field. The system measures the soil surface roughness using live images from a stereo camera mounted between the power harrow and the seed drill. An ISOBUS Class III application regulates the PTO and driving speed of the tractor based on the roughness values recorded. In doing so, the unit automatically controls the tractor to adapt to changing soil conditions. The result is an optimal seedbed with uniform tilth across the entire field. For the driver, this also means more convenience and less fatigue since the driver does not have to keep looking back to check the condition of the seedbed and manually adjust the speed of the power harrow rotors and the tractor. This also directly equates to the most efficient use of time and diesel. Night work is also possible because the system does not rely on daylight. A surface roughness map can also be generated, which can improve decisions for subsequent working steps.

**Preview:**



**Camera assisted seedbed preparation**

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