

Reprint: Field test | Amazone Precea 6000-TCC

traction

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High speed at the highest level

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AMAZONE

High speed at the highest level

The Precea series from Amazone scores with precision, flexibility and innovative features that include the option of choosing between individual seed hoppers on the row units and one large central hopper. And there is a clever option for the central hopper system, which is extremely intriguing for customers who also sow small seeds.

Technical data

Tender and seeder bar

3,000-litre fertiliser hopper, 850-litre seed hopper or 70-litre seed hoppers on the seeder units; telescopic axle, fertiliser distribution head with row control, 6m seeder bar

Seed singling units

8-12 seeder units, 45-80cm row spacings; pneumatic SmartControl singling system, range of metering discs, optical sensor, PreTeC min-till coulters, catcher roller, firming V-roller

Level of specification

FerTeC twin disc coulters for fertiliser application; SmartForce

Dimensions and weight

4.3t unladen weight, minimum 180hp tractor power

List price (excl. VAT)

€131,628

By Alexander Brockmann

German manufacturer Amazone is currently setting the pace in the development of high-speed precision drills – a market segment that used to be dominated by Väderstad until a few years ago. Yet, Amazone has been able to gain ground,

driven by the success of their Precea and courtesy of a broad product range. It is particularly in the business of mounted machines and smaller working widths where Amazone has established a foothold, so that buyers who are on the lookout for a precision seeder can hardly afford to ignore the machines from the Osnabrück



SEED HOPPERS ON EACH ROW: Precea 6000 drilled maize using the 70-litre seed hoppers on the row units. Filling the hoppers with bags was time-consuming.

factory. The Precea ED and EDX have had their day.

We discussed the models in a detailed test report in the early days of the Precea era. Our unreserved positive report that focused on the singling system was published in our traction September/October 2020 issue.

FASTER, WIDER, FURTHER

At last Agritechnica, the 12m and 9m wide Precea scooped the international Farm Machine prize in the seeder / planter category. In the following spring, the 6m version was launched in time for the sowing season. Like its wider siblings, it is a trailed machine with a high-capacity fertiliser tender. All three machines have the CSS central seed supply system. The speciality about the 6m Precea is that it is also available with 70-litre seed hoppers on the individual row units.

For drilling maize in the 2024 season, we chose a Precea 6000 TCC with individual seed hoppers whereas in late August we changed to the central hopper for sowing rapeseed. This offers a particularly intriguing detail for those who drill small seeds.

THE FERTILISER SYSTEM

A 6m wide toolbar that accommodates the individual seeders is not new for Amazone customers. For example, there is the mount-

ed 6000-2CC with a fertiliser hopper at the rear and the 6000-2FCC with a front-mounted tank. The TCC is a trailed machine with fertiliser tender which appeals especially to contractors and large-scale operations. The fertiliser hopper (pressurised hopper system) holds 3,000 litres and offers convenient filling with big bags or a loader. We had ordered big bags.

Calibration testing is typically Amazone and very easy from the fertiliser metering unit with the standard-fit calibration button. A small on-board terminal is available as an option and allows operators to enter the results while standing next to the machine. Another option is weighing cells on the fertiliser hopper.

The axle of the seed tender is positioned well behind the fertiliser hopper, ensuring there's always plenty of tongue load on the tractor's rear axle. The axle is telescopic so the wheels can run between the seed rows and prevent compaction. The seeder bar forms an integral unit with the tender. Sadly, the design the doesn't allow farmers to swap toolbars for sowing grain, for example.

Depending on your individual needs, you can clamp up to 12 seeders to the 6m wide bar. We fitted 8 seeders for sowing maize, spacing them 75cm apart; for sowing oilseed rape, we fitted all 12 seeders at 45cm

spacing. Each seeder unit is specced with the full fertiliser kit. This means that in 12-row specification, our machine was kitted out with the full fert spec (though not in work position) and yet didn't use it. Admittedly, it would be possible to remove the fertiliser components, but that's quite time-consuming and takes a bit of spannering. By comparison, Amazone's main competitor integrates all fertiliser components in one separate unit that can be removed more easily.

We really liked the fertiliser row control system. This consists of an intelligent distributor head with bypass flaps that close automatically, cutting off the granule flow to the respective fertiliser coulter. This spring, Amazone also introduced the FertiSpot system to the twin fertiliser coulter after the technology for spot-accurate application had previously been available only for the leaf spring-protected coulters on the three-point mounted machines.

CENTRAL SEED SUPPLY SYSTEM

This is the option for a Precea with central seed hopper. The seed tender on this Precea is almost identical to the Precea without CSS system – except for the 850-litre seed hopper arranged behind the 3,000-litre fertiliser hopper. Access to the lid is easy and filling with big bags is no problem.



- 1** We filled the 3,000-litre fertiliser hopper with big bags for the maize operation. Access to the lid is easy and safe.
- 2** The on-board display on the fertiliser hopper is useful for calibration testing. No need to climb back on the tractor.
- 3** The seeding unit is simple by design and wear resistant. Swapping the metering disc is quick and requires no tools.



The Precea delivers outstanding seed placement accuracy. Seed depth and spacing are consistent.



For rapeseed, we used a Precea 6000 TCC with the central seed hopper system. Each row unit was also equipped with the optional 8-litre box.

Beneath the seed hopper is a type of metering gate which meters the seeds pneumatically to the seeder units; these in turn have small 'intermediate' boxes that hold roughly two handfuls of seeds. By simple application of physical principles, the airflow to these boxes is cut the moment they are filled, so the seed flow is cut off, too. Yet, as the filling levels in these transparent boxes drop, the airflow is re-established and the boxes are topped up. No electronic control required.





When swapping seeds, for example from maize to rapeseed, you also swap the metering discs inside the seeding units and possibly adjust the sliders and stripper fingers. You also change the small sieves inside the intermediate boxes to adapt the mesh size to the crop.

A SMALL SEED OPTION

The central hopper may seem a bit oversized, especially for small seeds such as rapeseed and beet. Based on a sowing rate of 4-6kg/ha, the 850-litre hopper would be able sow many, many hectares of rapeseed. Admittedly, it needn't be filled to the brim but to a certain level - which gives you a little extra work when emptying it at the end of the job.

Yet, as mentioned, Amazone added a simple detail to the Precea with central hopper which makes it even more versatile. Like a 'regular' Precea, a Precea with central seed hopper can be specced with a small optional plastic box on each seeder unit. Yet, unlike the 70-litre hoppers, these small boxes hold only 8 litres. One such box on one seeding

Market overview High-speed precision seeders with seed tender

	Amazone Precea 6000 TCC	Väderstad Tempo L8	Horsch Maestro 8 CX
			
Work width	6m	6.1m	5.9m
Fertiliser hopper	3,000l	3,000l	3,000l
Central hopper	850 litres	no, 90-litre hoppers on row units	800 litres
Number of seeders	8-12	8-12	8
Row spacing	45-80cm	45-80cm	45-80cm
No. of strippers	3, auto setting	3, opt. auto setting	1
Coulter pressure	up to 350kg	up to 350kg	up to 350kg
Number of fertiliser metering units	1 distribution head	6	1 distribution head
Tractor power	from 180hp	from 150hp	from 150hp
Unladen weight	from 4,300kg	from 6,200kg	approx. 6,000kg

Conclusion

Pushing ahead in the precision drill market, Amazone presents the Precea 6000-TCC with two different seed delivery systems. A Precea with central hopper is available also in 'small seed specification', which means small optional boxes on the seeders for maximum flexibility. In general, the machine is very user-friendly.

- + Large central seed hopper
- + Optional small boxes on the row units
- + User friendly
- Removing the fertiliser coulters

unit has indeed been standard fit. This is useful for returning calibrated seeds into the system without walking back to the 850-litre hopper. These optional 8-litre boxes on all row units can also be retrofitted, giving customers the best of two worlds.

As you know, the seed hoppers on the individual seeders are conveniently filled with bags, which we used on our test machine Precea 6000 TCC. We found this an excellent way of controlling the filling level. Brilliant.


The 8-litre box option may not only be helpful when drilling small seeds, but also when trialling a different maize variety in one row only, for example.

CAREFULLY DESIGNED SEEDERS

Amazone is really serious about user-friendly operation — something we experience every time we test their machines. Everything is well-explained, clearly labelled and colour coded.

The seeding units can be emptied from either side, depending on which is easier to get at. Although with 12 seeders and 45cm spacings, it's tight for space, the rubber bucket still squeezes easily between the units.

There are plenty of little helpers available that ensure a uniform emergence and canopy. The well-known seed singling system works to the overpressure principle. SmartControl adjusts the stripper automatically on signalling from the optical sensor in the delivery tube.

Seed depth is reliably maintained by hydraulic coulter pressure control. This is done automatically thanks to SmartForce load-sensing pins that measure the current ground pressure of the seeders. 

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With all seeders attached to the 6m bar, we were able to work at 45cm row spacings.



1 The small boxes are an option for the central hopper system. They were a great help for metering small seeds.

2 The small transparent boxes on the seeders hold two handfuls of seeds. When the filling level drops, the central hopper supplies

3 The small sieves inside the transparent boxes are exchanged when swapping seeds, which is straightforward.

4 The 850-litre seed hopper on the tender can be filled with small big bags.

5 The metering unit underneath the central seed hopper meters the seeds into the airflow to the seeders.