



Apps You Can Use This Growing Season

Five smartphone apps designed to make your job easier and more profitable

by Himanshu Singh

The world of smartphone applications (apps) can be overwhelming—the Apple App Store has hit 50 billion downloads, and there are currently more apps available for download than there are minutes in the year!

There's a reason for their popularity—apps allow us instant access to information and provide us with tools to make our lives easier. In the past year there have been several new agriculture-related apps, designed to make the business of farming easier, more efficient, and more profitable. Here is a list of five apps that are definitely worth checking out leading into the 2013 growing season.

1) Air Cart Maximizer

Air Cart Maximizer is great app that allows you to calculate the maximum number of acres per fill based on

the size of each compartment and desired fertilizer and seeding rate. Also worth checking out is another app from the same development company, Seed Calculator.

Available for: iPhone and Android
Cost: \$4.99



2) SpraySelect

SpraySelect takes the guesswork out of selecting the correct tip for spray application, which leads to more efficient application and better outcomes. This app also helps you chose the proper tip/nozzle for

application by entering the speed, spacing, target rate, and drop rate. It has both imperial and metric measurements.

Available for: iPhone and Android
Cost: Free



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in brief



3) TankMix Calculator

TankMix Calculator is a great app developed by DuPont. Based on the number of acres and spray tank size

it calculates the amount of product and water needed for effective applications. The app eliminates the need for manually figuring out mixes, saving you time and reducing calculation mistakes.

Available for: iPhone and iPad

Cost: Free



4) AgWeb News and Markets

This is a great news app by the Farm Journal. The news ranges from topics regarding crop news, agribusiness

news and advice, and livestock news. The app also provides commodity market pricing as well as weather information.

Available for: iPhone and Android

Cost: Free

5) Extreme Beans

Specific to soybeans, this app was developed by the United Soybean Board in the United States (U.S.). The app helps you optimize the combination of inputs for achieving the best yield and also takes into account several factors such as maturity rates in your specific growing region, the cost of seed, and the estimated price of soybeans at the time of sale, to determine the optimal seed rate based on the percentage of return.

Available for: iPhone and Android

Cost: Free



This by no means is a complete list of all the agriculture related apps out there, nor does it cover all the different facets of a farming operation. As smartphones become more capable so do the apps that we operate on them. The near future is sure to bring even more great agriculture apps.

Why aren't these app's available on BlackBerry?

As you may notice all of these apps are for iPhones/iPads and most are also available for Android phones. So why aren't they also available for the blackberry?

Apple has made it quite easy for programmers to develop apps for their devices and Google's Android is a flexible open platform that's fairly easy for developers to build apps for as well. Developers are usually more comfortable designing for one or both of these platforms and programming languages.

Blackberry, on the other hand, is a lot more difficult to develop apps for. Until recently Blackberry phones were also not as capable as other devices, therefore it was never very popular with developers.

There are a few agriculture apps on Blackberry such as MyViterra, WeatherBug, GrainNews Mobile, and AgReader Mobile that are definitely worth the download. Apps that don't have Blackberry versions, such as our app (Farm At Hand) offer mobile websites that look and function a lot like actual apps and can be accessed by going to the "apps" website on your phones.

Farm At Hand

Farm At Hand is a free cloud-based farm management program that allows farmers to track everything from seed to sale. You can track what you're doing in the fields, what you have in storage, your contract, deliveries, and equipment. Unlimited devices can be used to track, review, and update information, keeping everyone in your farming operation in the loop.

Available for: iPhone, iPad, Mobile Web, and Web

Cost: Free

bio Himanshu Singh is the co-founder of Farm At Hand, a free mobile farm management app and web program that allows growers to track everything from seed to sale. For more information visit www.farmathand.com or email Himanshu at himanshu@farmathand.com.