

Selecting the correct screen sizes for your cleaner

In a three-screen system, the top and middle screens typically have round holes and the bottom screen is slotted.

The top screen hole size should be larger than the seed you are cleaning. The seed should be able to fall through it freely.

The second screen should have a hole size that is slightly larger than your seed, but smaller than the top screen. The second screen should allow only your seed to fall through, no debris.

The bottom screen is typically slotted. The slot should be small enough so that your seed does not get stuck in it and plug the slots.

To determine which size screens you need, you can measure your seed and convert to 64th's. For example, if your seed is 1/8"

in size that is equal to 8/64, so you would want to have a 10/64 on top and a 9/64 for the second screen or a 12/64 on top and a 10/64 for the second screen. It depends on how uniform in size your seed are.

There are, of course, exceptions to this. For example, oats have a slotted second screen.

Below is a reference from the USDA Bulletin on how screens are sized and numbered.

Screen Numbering System

The size of a round-hole screen is indicated by the diameter of its perforations. Perforations larger than 5 1/2/64ths of an inch are measured in 64ths. Therefore, a 1-inch round-hole screen is called a No. 64, a 1/2-inch screen is a No. 32, and so forth. Screens smaller than 5 1/2/64ths of an inch are measured in fractions of an inch. Therefore, the next size smaller than 5 1/2 is 1/12th; then, in descending order, 1/13th, 1/14th, and so forth.²

Oblong-hole screens are measured in the same manner as round-hole screens except that two dimensions must be given. In large oblong-hole or slotted screens, the hole width is indicated in 64ths of an inch; for example, 11 x 3/4 means an opening 11/64ths of an inch wide and 3/4ths of an inch long. In slotted screens smaller than 5 1/2/64 x 3/4, width is generally indicated in fractions of an inch; for example, 1/12 x 1/2. There are some exceptions to this latter designation in that such sizes as 5/64 x 3/4, 4 7/8/64 x 3/4, 3/64 x 5/16, and others, use the large-screen numbering system with hole widths indicated in 64ths of an inch. In all cases, the final number is the length of slot.

** Data derived from: USDA Bulletin 354 Grain Cleaning**