

Gathering Data for Variable Rate Technology is the Easiest Bit, Doing Something with it is the Challenge

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The great stumbling block for the adoption of Variable Rate Technology (VRT) has been data management and how to use it for implementing management decisions. Gathering data still has many challenges for the average grower but the technology and service providers are making it easier and easier. The real challenge for growers who want to make sense of data produced by integrated technologies is to link the data, hardware and agronomic advice together.

Here are some examples of just a few of the many hurdles that growers face with data management for VRT management decisions:

- How do I get yield mapping on my header?
- What file format are my maps in?
- How do I get the maps into my software?
- How do I process the data so it accurately represents variation in my paddock?
- How do I convert zone maps into fertilizer recommendations?
- What hardware do I need to make my equipment Variable Rate compatible?
- What format does my airseeder controller need the prescription maps in?

Despite this, utilising data and increasing the adoption of VRT for making management decisions has become easier thanks to new developments such as remote data transfer, the growth of the service industry dedicated to VRT adoption and support from industry.