EVALUATING PLANT POPULATIONS



Two most common methods are the **Row Length Method** and the **Hula Hoop Method**. Both are equally useful and easy to use.

Depending on if you know the row spacing you are evaluating could determine which method you would want to use, but the **Hula Hoop Method** does require just that – a hula hoop. The **Row Length Method** just requires a tape measure.

ROW LENGTH METHOD

ROW SPACING (Inches)	ROW LENGTH
7.5"	69'8"
10"	52′3″
15"	34'10"
20"	26'2"
22"	23'9"
30"	17′5″

To figure out plant populations using the **Row Length Method** one would need to use the figures off the table above. Count the number of plants in a row using the chart to determine how far along the row you should measure. Then multiply that number by 1,000 to determine your population. It is best to randomly pick up to 10 spots in the same field and then you can get an average based off the spots you measured.

HULA HOOP METHOD

INSIDE DIAMETER OF HULA HOOP (Inches)	CONVERSION FACTOR
24"	13,865
27"	10,956
30"	8,874
33"	7,334
36"	6,616

Utilizing the **Hula Hoop Method** is very similar to the Row Length Method, but instead of measuring the length of the row you first must measure the inside diameter of your hula hoop. Then, simply toss your hula hoop in random spots throughout the field. When you toss the hula hoop you need to count the number of plants inside the hoop then multiply by the conversion factor in the table above. Repeat this process up to 10 times in random areas of the field to get an average from the numbers you calculated. The bigger the hula hoop – the better in this case.