

Consider Value, Performance, Longevity Of Poly Tank

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Crop producers use a wide variety of plastic tanks for storage and transportation of water, fertilizers and pesticides. These plastic tanks can be manufactured from a variety of materials, but polyethylene or “poly” tanks have become quite popular. The poly tanks are relatively lightweight, inexpensive and rust proof.

Selecting the right tank is quite important for value, performance and longevity. There are many tank choices, specifications and options to consider. Avoid making a selection on price alone.

First, determine how the tank will be used. In general, vertical tanks are for stationary use only and should not be used for transport. These tanks may have tie downs, but those ties are for initial transport and wind protection. Horizontal tanks are often designed and engineered for use on trucks, trailers and sprayers. Tanks used for transportation must have tie-down features to insure they are properly secured. Larger transportation tanks over 1000 gallons are equipped with internal baffles.

Next, identify what liquids will be used, stored or transported in the tank. If it is to be used exclusively as a water tank, then most standard tanks will be adequate. But, if fertilizers or pesticides are to be stored or transported, further examination is necessary. The standard tank-specific gravity rating is 1.0 for water. Depending on the fertilizers or pesticides to be used, tanks with specific gravity ratings of 1.5 or 1.9 may be required. If possible, consult a chemical resistance chart to confirm that the tank is rated acceptable or better for the intended liquids.

Tanks are also available in different configurations and with a variety of options or accessories. Examples include double walls, heaters, insulation, valves, sight glasses and pad locking.

This brief article does not address every possible consideration. I recommend that you work with a trusted ag professional to select the tank that best suits your needs. When pricing, only compare tanks with similar specifications.

Watch this column for a future article on evaluating and testing existing used poly tanks. Δ

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