# Slide System Technology

Push spreaders serve two main purposes: spreading fertilizer and spreading salt. While the idea is the same - you want to spread these products in a uniformed, controlled way; the realities are much more complex.

The properties of fertilizer and salt are very different and this means you need unique functions to spread them efficiently. This has meant it's been very difficult to produce a spreader that accurately and effortlessly spreads both salt and fertilizer.

Spreaders have adapted over the years to give you this option, but it's normally through a fiddly add-on that in our opinion is suboptimal. With slide system technology, Cresco has brought spreaders into the 2020s and created an effortless way to optimise your spreader for either salt spreading or fertilizer spreading, achieving superior results with both products.

## The Benefits of Slide System Technology

Being able to spread both fertilizer and salt to a professional standard isn't just convenient: it has practical benefits for your business as well. Cresco's range of spreaders benefits your business by:

- Offering a high-quality spread with a wide variety of products.
- Making pedestrian spreaders a less seasonal product - it's as comfortable spreading fertilizer in the summer as it is salt in the winter.
- Easing stock pressures - one spreader for all your customers' needs.
- No fiddly extras - just a simple, quick way to switch from fertilizer spreading to salt spreading.

Spreaders shouldn't be overly-complicated, and you shouldn't have to compromise between salt spreading or fertilizer spreading. Slide system technology means you don't have to make this compromise.

## How Slide System Technology Works

One of the reasons spreader technology has been slow to adapt and become truly multifunctional (in terms of salt and fertilizer spreading) is because it's based on old moulds.

Rather than redesigning the moulds entirely and creating a truly cross-over spreader, the industry has stuck to spreaders that either spread fertilizer or salt.

Our vision is to share our 40 years of experience in the industry to make sure you don't have to compromise on spreaders and to do this, we've designed our range of spreaders from brand new moulds which address the cross-over issue at source.

Whereas traditional spreaders have fixed drop holes positioned inside the hopper, the drop holes on Cresco are positioned outside the hopper on a slide system which easily allows you to switch from precision application (fertilizer) to high output application (salt).

With the drop holes positioned on a slide system, this means you can quickly change your application to suit the type of spreading you're doing.

## The Fertilizer Slide System

Spreading fertilizer is all about accuracy. Too much fertilizer in one area and you can kill your grass, too little and you end up with a streaky lawn. What makes this even more difficult is the wide variety of fertilizers out there.

Some fertilizers are made up of large granules, whereas others are much smaller, and even dust-like in texture. The larger the granules, the quicker the flow, and the further the spread, but the opposite can be said for the smaller granules. This makes it extremely difficult for one spreader to give accurate results with drastically different fertilizers.

To combat this, Cresco has worked with our engineering partner Marco Valier to come up with two vital pieces of technology.

### Spread Pattern Control

All Cresco models feature spread pattern control, allowing you to achieve results that were previously reserved for only the most professional models.

The slide system allows you to adjust the spread pattern individually for both the left and right-hand sides, giving you flexibility with how you spread fertilizer. With adjustable settings built into the slide system, you can effortlessly optimise your spread width to give you the ideal spread pattern.

However, we recognize that being able to control spread patterns is only useful if you understand the ideal output for individual fertilizers and how to achieve it. This is why we've

invested in a brand new testing system, which allows us to calibrate the perfect settings for individual fertilizers and share those settings with you.

We're manufacturers, but at the same time, we're experienced industry professionals, and we're here to share everything we've learned to help you get the most out of your spreaders.

### Border Control

The reason spreading fertilizer is very much about precision is because it has great benefits when you get it in the right place in the right quantity, but if you get it in the wrong place it will have negative effects.

For example, when you're spreading fertilizer on your lawn, you don't want to get it in the flower beds because it's going to encourage weeds and potentially kill your plants. When you don't have great control over your spread pattern, it's difficult to ensure you're spreading fertilizer in the right areas and not the ones you want to avoid.

That's where Cresco's Border Control comes in.

Whether you're operating the highest spec model or the entry-level model, you've got the ability to control the width of your spread pattern, even shutting one side off completely. This allows you to spread fertilizer accurately in areas that border paths and flower beds.

In the past, there's always been a compromise between border control and price, but we don't want you to compromise on spreaders, so complete border control is possible whether you buy our homeowner, estate, or professional models.

## The Salt Slide System

Switching between fertilizer spreading and salt spreading is particularly difficult in Europe. The quality of salt varies greatly between countries, for example, here in the UK, we tend to use very low-quality salt that's difficult to spread. This is further complicated by the fact that salt easily absorbs moisture, and in damp climates, it clumps together, making it much more challenging to spread.

This means the settings required to spread salt are very different from those you use to spread fertilizer. What's more,  to get the best results with a variety of different salts, you need flexibility.

We've been working in the European salt spreader market for 40+ years, so we've drawn on all our experiences to create a spreader that works for European salt spreaders.

### Adjustable High Output

In order to spread salt, you need a wider (high output) drop hole. Traditional spreaders offer little flexibility, and to adjust spread width, you need to add a deflector kit (another costly extra) which can be fiddly.

With all of Creso's salt spreaders, you can control how far you spread salt by adjusting the size of the drop hole. Simply slide in the drop hole modifier, and you can cut your spread width from roughly 6m to 1.5m.

This means you can quickly go from spreading salt on a large area such as a car park to more precision spreading on something like a footpath.

### Continual Flow Hopper

Starting with a brand new design has allowed us to create a steeped hopper that naturally spreads the weight of the salt evenly. This allows the salt to flow continually, overcoming one of the biggest issues with salt spreading - controlling flow.

By helping gravity do its job through a smart hopper design, the salt flows more freely, but to encourage it further, all our models include an extended agitator which helps to maintain airflow at the point of exit

## What Does This Mean for You?

Just because you're buying a spreader for personal use doesn't mean you don't need abilities such as adjustable ports and border control. We don't want you to have to compromise, and that's why we've ensured our key technology is included whether you're buying a homeowner, estate, or professional mode.

With Cresco, you get a professional level of spreader control, no matter what model you buy.

# Spreader Calibration Analysis

If you've ever manually calibrated a spreader, then you know it's a hassle. With Cresco's Calibration Centre, we've done a lot of the hard work for you, and as ever, we're here to share our knowledge with you.

Whether you're spreading salt of fertilizer, it's important you spread the right amount of product across a given area, but this isn't always simple. As fertilizers and salts vary greatly in size, weight, and shape, they all spread differently, meaning your spreader settings need to be set for the specific product you're using.

Normally, this means lost time as you trial different settings trying to find the right one for your product. However, we've made it our mission to simplify spreaders, and to help us do this, we've designed our very own testing system.

This means we can quickly test the best settings for the major products and share them with you in our data vault.

## Why is Spreader Calibration Important?

Fertilizer spreading is all about precision, and to help you achieve this, we developed Slide System Technology. While this technology gives you great control over how much and how far you spread fertilizer, a vital link was still missing.

How do you know exactly how much fertilizer you're spreading in order to adjust your output accordingly?

If you just use visual cues to gauge your output, then you risk spreading too much fertilizer and killing your grass, or too little product, meaning your spreading is all for nothing.

One option you've got is to run a series of tests, measuring how much fertilizer you spread over a certain distance, but this can be extremely hard to judge, and can only lead to an estimate. Calibration needs to be done in a controlled setting in order to get the best results and to make sure this happens, we've invested in our testing capabilities, so you don't have to worry about trial and error.

## Cresco Calibration Centre

Spreading is more than just throwing out fertilizer, it's about controlling flow, and making sure you've got the right amount of product on every square meter of turf. However, every single fertilizer you use is going to produce slightly different (and in some cases, hugely different) results.

We don’t want you to spend your time figuring out which spreader setting you need for each different product, so we’re working with fertilizer producers to put together calibrations for a huge range of products in the Cresco Calibration Centre.

We’ve been working with spreaders for over 40 years, so we know it’s not just about producing a good machine, it’s about making the process simple, and that’s exactly what the Cresco Calibration Centre is there to do.

## The Rolling Road

You spread in all kinds of conditions, so to replicate this, we need to be able to measure spreader output in a controlled setting.

Our specially designed rolling road allows us to do this, putting each model through thousands of hours of testing without breaking a sweat. This allows us to measure output with specific products, down to the slightest detail.

During the manufacturing process, we’ve used this to test our models and make sure they offer you the best possible performance, and now we’ve turned it into a resource you can use. We’re working with fertilizer producers, to make sure each fertilizer has been thoroughly tested with the spreader model you’re using, so you can quickly find the settings you need.

If you’re spreading professionally, then this level of precision is an absolute necessity, if you’re doing it for a personal job, you might have a little leeway. With Cresco it doesn’t matter though, because all our models have been tested to give you the highest possible level of output control.

## What Does This Mean for You?

Whatever Cresco model you use, whatever product you use, we can assist you in finding the correct settings. Our rolling road can do all the hard work calibrating, so all you have to focus on is pushing the spreader around.

No matter what model you have, you can get professional results, and all without the hassle of calibration. Our mission is to make spreaders simple for both distributors and consumers, and the Cresco Calibration Centre is a big part of this.