

# Cotton Module Staging Instructions and Truck Requirements



**JOHN DEERE**

## **INSTRUCTIONS** **Cotton Module Staging Instructions** **and Truck Requirements**

**N390094 10JUN08 (ENGLISH)**

**John Deere Des Moines Works**  
**N390094 (10JUN08)**

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## Introduction

**IMPORTANT: Proper module staging impacts the ability and reliability of module truck pickup and subsequent ginning.**

This document demonstrates the proper procedure for staging cotton modules for pickup by properly equipped module trucks or moon buggies. Failure to follow these instructions can adversely effect the integrity of the modules. Refer to the operator's manual supplied with the module handler for tractor setup and proper operation.

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## Choosing The Proper Staging Site

Modules should be staged on a high flat surface. Staging on well defined flat driveways or a flat disked surface is optimal.

When choosing a staging location, ask yourself "Can a module truck retrieve from this location after a significant amount of rain".

If a module truck tires and/or tracks have to slip to gather the load, damage may occur to the underside of the module due to relative chain slip.

If at all possible do not stage modules on top of rows or beds or internal portion of field where module truck access will be difficult. Modules will take the shape of the surface they are placed on as shown in (Figure A). Setting on beds or uneven surfaces requires digging into the ground with the module truck chain to safely get under the entire surface of the module.



*Incorrect Staging Surface  
Figure A*

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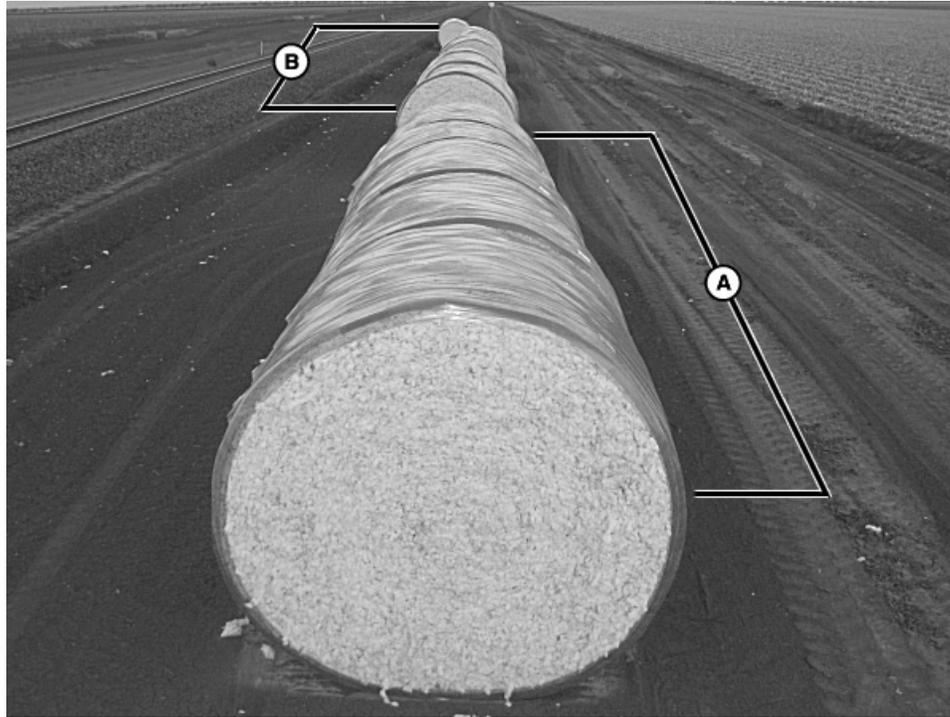
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## General Module Handling Information

- Modules should only be squeezed with a low pan position when resting on the ground.
- Attempting to re-squeeze when module is raised can cause excessive stress on wrap.
- Transport speed of the tractor with a module on the handler shall not exceed 16 km/h (10 mph).
- Gap between the underside of the module and the ground should never be less than 15 cm (6 in.) during module staging to prevent drag tearing of underside of wrap.
- When transporting modules through harvested rows, the module should be carried high enough to minimize contact with those rows.
- Fully raising the three point hitch is recommended when transporting with non-masted handlers.
- A masted-style handler is recommended for transporting modules down harvested rows.
- When loading or unloading flatbed trailers, drive straight away from the trailer (perpendicular to bed axis) to prevent handler contact with adjacent modules.
- Significant wrap tears must be repaired in the field before module truck pickup to prevent further wrap damage and ginning problems.
- Loose outer tails must be secured with 3M 90 spray adhesive or lint bale repair tape before being retrieved by module trucks or moon buggys to prevent subsequent module damage and ginning difficulties.

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## Module Staging



**A—Proper Center Alignment**

**B—Improper Center Alignment**

Center-line of individual modules must fall in a +/- 13 cm (5 in.) band width of the composite center-line of all four modules. Do not simply align one side of all modules.

Modules (A) are properly center aligned, modules (B) are not.

Improper alignment increases the chance of wrap tear due to the truck driver having to stop and start loading

procedure and from the modules scrubbing the trailer walls.

Utilize GPS capability when available for straight line scribing and subsequent staging of modules over the line.

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Modules must be staged for module truck pickup with gaps between 102 mm (4 in.) and 203 mm (8 in.) at module cores as shown in (Figure A).

Too little gap as shown in (Figure B) can cause tearing as modules travel up module truck incline due to interference with adjacent modules. Also, having module ends contacting each other during long-term storage can increase chances of mold growth. Gaps between modules allow ventilation.

Excessive gap as shown in (Figure C) can cause four modules to be too long for available truck bed lengths.

**Tip**—An easy way to achieve the correct gap is to bump against a previously staged module and then determine the number of tractor tire lugs that must pass forward from a line of sight to achieve the proper gap as the tractor moves forward.



Figure A



Figure B



Figure C

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## Module Truck or Moon Buggy Requirements and Loading Instructions

**IMPORTANT: Proper module truck loading and unloading of round modules impacts the ability and reliability of subsequent ginning of these modules. Be sure to share this important information with all truck drivers and use the following check list to verify they have the proper equipment to handle the modules.**

### Module Truck or Moon Buggy Requirements

- Module trucks with 12 bed chains must have inside eight chains replaced with Stover RMS chain to prevent damage to the module plastic wrap.
- Module trucks with 11 bed chains must have inside seven chains replaced with Stover RMS chain to prevent damage to the module plastic wrap.
- As a final check, non-Stover RMS chain is only allowed within 43 cm (17 in.) of module truck inside wall surfaces.
- If chain tail wheels are the sprocket style, paddle style with sharp points, or narrower than 5 cm (2 in.), replace with wide smooth paddle style tail wheels.
- For moon buggys, enough strands of chains must be replaced to the middle of the width to accommodate a 1.5 m (5 ft.) flat portion of a module, regardless of the side to side placement of the module. As with a module truck, no more that 43 cm (17 in.) of non-Stover RMS chain is allowed from the extreme inside width of the moon buggy to prevent damage to the plastic wrap
- Verify accurate synchronization of truck or moon buggy bed to ground speed per manufacturer's owner's manual.
- Many module trucks have the chain speed biased to run slightly faster than the ground speed. This is not permissible with round modules and will cause cutting on the underside of the modules during loading and unloading.
- Do not attempt to load round modules if not properly staged.
- Verify that module group and individual modules have been identified per farmer and gin instructions before loading.

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## Loading Procedure

1. Load or unload modules with continuous and even truck speed. Starting, stopping, and varying speed will cause slip of the modules relative to the chains.
2. Chain tail wheels should clear ground surface by approximately 25 mm (1 in.). Excessive digging is not required and just adds to foreign matter brought to the gin. Many module truck operators compensate for the shifting of the bed angle as a conventional module is loaded by starting with the chains significantly off the ground at the start of the load cycle. Because a module truck is picking up four individual entities instead of one continuous module, the bed deflection is less. The chains should be positioned just off the ground surface at the start of the loading cycle for round modules.
3. Do not run up front face of first round module up tight against the front of truck bed (headboard) for any reason. Stalling the travel of first module will cause cutting of the wrap due to relative motion of chains and will also close up gap to the next module. If modules are not staged properly, do not use the module truck as the means to correct incorrect staging.

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