

# TIMELY INFORMATION

## Precision Agriculture (PA)

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### Agricultural Geographic Information System (GIS)

Agricultural GIS packages are used to create zones and/or grids for soil sampling, to create prescription maps, import yield data, save geographical referenced data and additional tasks. Many of the programs provide in-depth analysis features that will allow you to analyze multiple years of data; average yields across crops, terrain attributes, and/or soil data; and import and clip soil type data to field boundaries. In addition to the geospatial analyses, many of the programs allow for basic and/or advanced recordkeeping and accounting.

**Table 1.** Desktop GIS tailored software packages for agriculture.

Company	Desktop Product	Website	Phone Number
MapShots	EasiSuite	<a href="http://www.mapshots.com">www.mapshots.com</a>	678-513-6093
SST Development Group, Inc.	SSToolbox® SSToolbox Lite® SSToolkit®	<a href="http://www.sstsoftware.com">www.sstsoftware.com</a>	888-377-5334
Ag Leader	SMS Basic SMS Advanced	<a href="http://sms.agleader.com">sms.agleader.com</a>	515-232-5363
Farm Works	Farm Site Site Pro	<a href="http://www.farmworks.com">www.farmworks.com</a>	800-225-2848
John Deere	Apex	<a href="http://stellarsupport.deere.com/en_US/">http://stellarsupport.deere.com/en_US/</a>	888-GRN-STAR

### Considerations for Selecting an Ag GIS Package:

- What kind of customer support and training does the company provide? Do online tutorials and operator manuals exist? Is there an annual fee for customer support and, if so, what is the fee?
- Will the Ag GIS read and analyze data collected with your current precision ag equipment? Is the package compatible with future technology purchases?
- Does the Ag GIS generate prescription maps in the required formats? If generating prescriptions for an agribusiness to apply, is the software compatible with the agribusiness' application equipment?
- What kind of analyses is the software capable of (i.e. multi-year, normalizing data, clipping data, etc.)?

- What format are my soil test laboratory results in and does the Ag GIS interpret this format?
- Do I need recordkeeping or accounting software integrated with an Ag GIS?
- Compare computer specifications to software requirements.
- How do I plan to back-up my data and where will the back-up be stored?

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