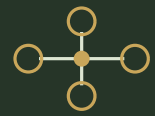


# RGB vs. Multispectral Decision Guide

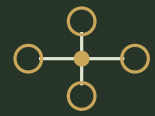
Use the right camera for the decision, not the sales pitch



Application	RGB	Multispectral	Field note
Stand counts / emergence	Yes	Yes	Visible structure; RGB is enough.
Drainage / tile lines	Yes	Yes	Fly after rain, before full dry-down.
Weed patches	Yes	Yes	Most useful before canopy closure.
Equipment streaks / skips	Yes	Yes	Look for row-parallel patterns.
Damage documentation	Yes	Yes	Hail, wind, wildlife, flooding.
Visible stress patterns	Yes	Yes	RGB finds where to scout.
Early stress before visible symptoms	No	Yes	Requires NIR / red-edge response.
True NDVI / NDRE	No	Yes	RGB-only indices are approximations.
Nitrogen assessment / prescriptions	Limited	Yes	NDRE is the key mid-season tool.
Variable-rate prescription creation	No	Yes	Needs calibrated data and agronomic review.

## THE PRACTICAL SPLIT

RGB handles the majority of everyday scouting and documentation. Multispectral earns its keep when early stress, nitrogen status, or calibrated prescriptions change a management decision.



## STICK WITH RGB FOR NOW

- First season of drone use
- Under 200 acres or uniform fields
- No variable-rate equipment
- Primary needs: scouting, stands, drainage, damage documentation

## HIRE MULTISPECTRAL SERVICE

- 200-500 acres and want to test value
- Need 2-3 key flights, not weekly access
- No time to learn calibration/processing
- Want agronomist-supported interpretation

## BUY MULTISPECTRAL

- 500+ variable corn acres
- Have VRT or service provider to act on zones
- Already mastered RGB workflow
- Data will change input rates or service revenue

## START SIMPLE

Do not buy equipment hoping to find a use for it. Buy equipment that solves a problem you have already identified. Prove the concept with simple tools before scaling the investment.

## EXPERIENCE CHECKPOINT BEFORE UPGRADING

- 50+ hours flown safely
- Repeatable naming, backup, and logging process
- Maps have led to at least one useful field action
- You know which sensor limitation is costing you money
- You have a plan to turn maps into prescriptions or service revenue