

To whom it may concern,

This past Saturday, July 2, 2016, while operating Aircraft N6781K, a Grumman G-164B (AgCat), the engine lost power and I had to perform an emergency landing in an agricultural field. At approximately 10:30am, I just finished spraying a watermelon field in Sussex County Delaware. I was directly south of the intersection of E. Trap Pond Road and Ross Point Rd. At the finish of my last pass in the field, I heard a loud bang (noise). Immediately after, the engine lost power. I was between 20' to 60' feet AGL heading for the trees. I committed to a landing and secured the throttle/mixture controls aft. I turned into the wind and steered away from the trees and landed in the corn that surrounded the watermelons. My turn was between 40-60 degrees to the left. I touched down nice. During the roll out, the airplane settled deeper into the corn and soft sandy soil. The sandy ground was consistent with beach sand. As the airplane lost forward momentum, the induced drag of the corn and sand caused it to stand up on it's nose. The airplane was resting on its nose motionless for a brief period. Then it slowly rolled onto its back. Had it been a cut wheat field, the airplane would have rolled out without incident.



Justin D. Hoffman