



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Iowa, Louisiana	Accident Number:	GAA18CA447
Date & Time:	July 26, 2018, 11:30 Local	Registration:	N254LA
Aircraft:	Air Tractor AT502	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Runway excursion	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

According to the pilot in the tailwheel-equipped, restricted-category airplane, he had performed an agricultural flight and was landing to take on another load. He made a three-point landing with full flaps and closed the throttle. He stated that, during the landing roll, the airplane "turned violently to the right and got very light on the gear." The airplane's nose had turned 45° right of the runway centerline, so he applied left brake and left rudder and then he added power. As the power increased, the airplane rolled left. The left wing struck the ground, and the pilot pulled the throttle to idle and then he applied reverse thrust and full brakes. However, the airplane exited the runway and collided with a drainage culvert.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing spar and aileron.

The pilot reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was light and variable, but dust devils were present. Additionally, he reported that the accident could have been prevented by landing at a higher airspeed to keep airflow over the rudder and by minimizing the engine thrust.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain directional control during the landing roll.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	(general) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground
Landing-landing roll	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	53,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 29, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 20, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 21639 hours (Total, all aircraft), 965 hours (Total, this make and model), 21502 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 310 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 105 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air Tractor	Registration:	N254LA
Model/Series:	AT502 A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2016	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	502A-3054
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 20, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	10480 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	965 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-140AG
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	867 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Agricultural aircraft (137)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KCWF, 17 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:48 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	263°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.01 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C / 20°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Iowa, LA (LA71)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Iowa, LA (LA71)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	O'Brien Flying Service LA71	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	26 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	03	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3800 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	30.224445,-93.000274(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Richard Gordon; FAA; Baton Rouge, LA
Original Publish Date:	June 5, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=97905

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