

Used IH 500 8-Row, 30-In. Soybean Planter Converted To Narrow-Row Model

To boost soybean yields, Charlie Walters, New Virginia, Iowa, bought a used IH 500 8-row, 30-in. planter and converted it to an 8-row, 17 1/2-in. model.

"My total cost was only about \$1,200. I saved a lot of money because new narrow-row planters sell for tens of thousands of dollars," says Walters.

He bought the 3-pt. mounted planter for \$700 from an implement dealer's "junk row". He stripped the Yetter row units off and moved them in, adding a steel bracket at each end in order to mount the outside row units. The previous owner had hinged the toolbar so that the outside two row units on each side could be folded in. With the row units moved in, there wasn't a place to mount the outside row units. To solve the problem he clamped a short length of 7 by 7-in. toolbar on behind the main toolbar at each end of the planter,

adding a spacer to set the two row units back farther for better trash flow.

"It performs well and I like the way trash flows through it," says Walters. "I installed new bearings and disc openers on the planter wherever they were needed, as well as new tires. It's a cost-effective way to plant narrow rows because there are a lot of IH 500 planters around that can be bought cheap. I used the planter last year for the first time and did enough custom work to pay for it at least three times over. I planted in everything from tilled ground to no-till alfalfa sod and it worked perfect every time. I used it in the field next to an IH 5400 Soybean Special as well as a Kinze 23-row, 15-in. planter, and it performed just as well as both of them.

"Before I bought this planter I had tried drilling beans for a couple of years, but I wasn't happy with the seed spacing and depth



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control. The row units on my planter have a staggered appearance due to the way the previous owner had set up the Yetter mounting brackets.

"It's a real heavy planter because it's fully mounted. I use either my Ford TW125 front wheel assist tractor or my Case 1070 2-WD tractor to pull it. Neither one is completely

satisfactory. The Ford can pick it up but doesn't turn sharp, while the Case turns sharp but has trouble picking it up. I wish the planter had lift assist wheels."

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Narrow Row Bean Planter

Warren Livingston, Fontanelle, Iowa, wanted to try narrow row soybeans, but couldn't justify the cost of a drill or narrow-row planter. He ended up building his own 8-row, 19-in. bean planter by an International 400 air planter with a Deere 7000.

"I call it my 7400 Max Air planter. It's small enough for our operation and didn't cost much to build. It's about the same size as our 4-row, 38-in. corn planter so we can use the same grain head to harvest beans that we've always used."

Livingston bought an 8-row IH 400 planter at an auction for \$200 and a used Deere 7000 4-row planter for \$450. He bolted the IH row units and seed hoppers onto the Deere toolbar, leaving the Deere lift wheels, markers, and transmission in place. He cut out part of the frame and used gauge wheel brackets from a rotary hoe to make a frame that would work with the row unit lift rods.

He bought seed hopper mounts for an IH 500 planter at a salvage yard, cut them in half, and turned them around 180 degrees so the seed drum is at the front of the planter for easier monitoring. The IH planter was originally pto-driven. Livingston converted it to hydraulic drive using a 1,000 rpm hydraulic pump, motor, and cooler. To get the drum to turn in the right direction, he had to cut off the bevel gear on the drum's input shaft and mount it back on the right side of the seed drum's driveshaft.



Livingston built his own 8-row, 19-in. bean planter by combining an IH 400 air planter with a Deere 7000.

"I built it four years ago and have had excellent stands with it every year," says Livingston. "A lot of people turn their heads when they first see it. I've displayed it at the Iowa State Fair three times and won several awards for it.

"My total investment the year I built it was only about \$1,300. I spent \$650 for both planters, \$350 for hydraulic hoses, and \$300 for the pump, motor, cooler, mounting brackets, and miscellaneous parts. Over the years I've made improvements that have boosted my total cost to about \$2,150. The row units are staggered in pairs and there's only one disc closer per row unit for better trash flow. It has excellent trash clearance. In fact, I haven't plugged this planter up yet. The seed hopper holds 11 bu. of soybeans, which is enough for about 10 acres at a time.



IH 400 row units and seed hoppers were bolted onto a Deere 7000 toolbar.

"The hardest part of the project was finding the right gears to drive the seed drum," says Livingston. "The 400 planter's drive wheel had a 15-tooth sprocket that drove a 12-tooth sprocket on the jackshaft. The transmission had a 12-tooth sprocket that drove a 15-tooth sprocket on the drum's seed module input shaft. However, on the Deere planter, a 12-tooth sprocket drives a 16-tooth sprocket

from the drive wheel to the transmission. To drive the seed drum correctly, I mounted a 16-tooth sprocket on the transmission and a 12-tooth sprocket on the seed drum. The number of seeds per acre came out almost dead perfect."

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Tow-Behind Bulk Seed System Speeds Spring Planting

Gandy Company, Owatonna, Minn., has introduced a special bulk seed transfer system to pneumatically deliver seed from a tow-behind bulk hopper to the individual row hoppers on planters.

The company says it saves considerable time, since growers don't have to stop to refill the small row crop hoppers. One grower trying out the prototype system last year reported being able to plant 100 acres more per day because of the time saved.

Seed is constantly delivered from the bulk hopper to the row unit. Since the row hoppers on a planter are all always filled at the same

level, planter weight doesn't vary as much and planting depth is more consistent.

Gandy Seed transfer system hoppers, with capacities of 64, 80, 96 or 120 bu., can be filled by bulk bag. The system is designed to handle from 8 to 24 rows. Installation requires cutting a hole in either the planter hopper or in the lid. The hopper can also be mounted directly on the frame of the planter.

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Gandy system pneumatically delivers seed from a tow-behind bulk hopper to the individual row hoppers on planters.