Powell says his 15-in. planter offers more accurate seed placement and better row spacing than a grain drill and does a better job handling residue.

CASE-IH 12-ROW, 30-IN. PLANTER CONVERTED TO NARROW ROWS

19-Row Planter Made For 15-In. Beans

After experimenting for years with grain drills to plant narrow row beans, Gary Powell, Oakland, Neb., came to the conclusion that he needed a narrow-row planter to do the best job. So he bought a 1985 Case-IH 800 12-row, 30-in. no-till air planter and converted it to a 19-row, 15-in. model.

"It offers more accurate seed placement and better row spacing than a grain drill and does a better job handling residue. It's also more flexible in ditches and terraces and is easier to transport on the highway," says Powell. "Unlike a grain drill, all of the row units are monitored and it can handle any seed size."

Powell bought the semi-mounted planter used for $12,000. He cut 2 ft. off each end of the toolbar and slid four used row units on. In order for the narrowed-up row units to be able to handle trash, he made spacer bars that move every other row unit back 11 in. He used the leftover toolbar sections to make four spacer bars. He cut each 2-ft. section in half and welded a pair of angle irons onto the front and back sides, then bolted the row units to the back pair of angle irons. He clamped the front pair to the toolbar. He also made spacer bars for other row units to come up with 10 row units in front and nine on back. The air system on the planter was designed to handle only 16 row units so he had to mount three plate-type planter units onto the toolbar to get up to 19 rows. The three plate units are all self-contained, ground-driven by a ribbed packer wheel.

The 12-row planter already had a monitor. To monitor the seven add-on rows, Powell uses the monitor off his corn planter.

"I've used this planter for two years and have been more than satisfied," says Powell. "I've planted through standing corn stalks and soybean and wheat stubble. The staggered row units give the planter plenty of trash clearance. I chose the Case-IH planter because I was able to reduce row width on it to 15 in. whereas Deere planters are limited to 18 in. I only use it for beans. I use a pull-type Case-IH 800 planter for corn.

"I think soybean drills are a fad. They don't pack the seed like press wheels so seed-to-soil contact is poor, especially in dry years. A 15-ft. drill works too slow and a 20-ft. drill has problems following the ground contour. Also, drills are more of a problem to transport. In addition, the Cyclo's big hoppers are easy to fill and much easier to clean out than a drill. My total cost to convert the planter was about $1,700. A 15-ft. no-till drill sells for about $15,000 and a 30-ft. model for about $30,000."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Powell, Rt. 2, Box 36, Oakland, Neb. 68045 (ph 402 685-6268).

Spacer bars made from leftover toolbar move every other row unit back 11 in.

Harrison's mower is equipped with a 5-ft. deck and rides on big 14-in. tires.

"LOTS OF POWER AND CUTS FAST"

Riding Mower Made From Mazda Pickup

"It works better than any other riding mower I've ever seen and cost only $1,500 to build," says Glen Harrison, Sharon, Ontario, about the 5-ft. wide riding mower he made from a Mazda pickup.

"It has a lot of power and cuts fast. It's like having an extra large garden tractor," says Harrison, who built the riding mower 2 years ago. "People who see it for the first time always ask what kind of tractor it is. They think I'm joking when I tell them we built it ourselves. I already had the pickup and paid $1,000 for the mower deck. A comparable commercial riding mower equipped with a 5-ft. deck would cost at least $15,000 and would have far less power. It cuts about twice as fast as a conventional riding mower and has a top speed of 25 mph. It's also fuel efficient - I can cut my 3 1/2-acre lawn twice on 2 1/2 gal. of diesel fuel. It works good on slopes because it's built heavy and low to the ground and rides on big 14-in. tires. I can drive it across a 45 degree slope without even sliding. I cut in first or second gear depending on grass height. I flip a toggle switch on the dash to engage the electric clutch and use a homemade lever to raise or lower the deck. I can quickly remove the deck by taking out four pins and slipping the lift arms off."

Harrison started with a 1984 Mazda B2200 2-WD pickup equipped with a 4-cyl., 70 hp diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. He kept the pickup's engine and transmission, axles, rear end, steering shaft, steering box, spindles, ball joints, tires, and springs. He made a new frame from 4-in. channel iron. To make a new narrowed-up front axle, he cut the spindles off the original axle and welded them onto lengths of 2 1/2-in. dia. steel pipe. A kingpin mounted between both pipes allows the axle to oscillate. The frame narrows toward the front axle, which is 6 in. narrower than the rear axle to shorten up the turning radius.

He removed the pickup's driveshaft and mounted the rear end with the input shaft facing the rear of the tractor. The transmission extends to the back of the tractor so that its output shaft is directly over the rear end's input shaft. Harrison put a small sprocket on the transmission shaft and a big sprocket on the rear end to gear it down.

He bought a used 3-blade, 5-ft. wide deck off a Massey Ferguson riding mower and adapted the mower's lift arms to fit the tractor. The deck is belt-driven off the engine crankshaft by the mower's electric clutch, which is mounted on front of the tractor.

Harrison used sheet metal to make the hood which is secured by two bolts and flips forward for easy access to the engine. The radiator screen is off a big truck and was cut down to make it fit. He mounted the pickup's air cleaner next to one side of the engine. He bought a new muffler and mounted it on a length of pipe that mounts directly onto the engine exhaust manifold on the other side of the engine. "I couldn't mount the muffler straight up because I couldn't bend the pipe at a sharp angle," says Harrison. "Mounting the muffler and air cleaner next to the engine keeps them from catching on tree limbs."

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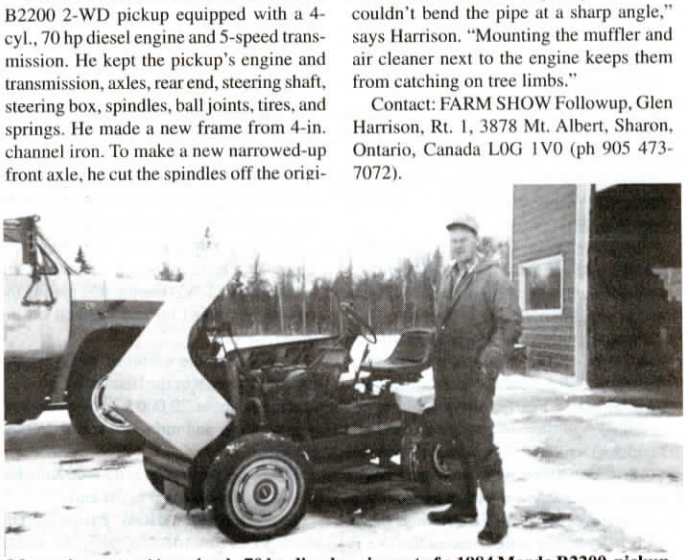

Mower is powered by a 4-cyl., 70 hp diesel engine out of a 1984 Mazda B2200 pickup.