Huge Air Seeder Is Biggest In North America

Farm equipment keeps on getting bigger, and one example is this 700-bu., tow-behind air seeder from Bourgault Industries. It was on display at the recent KMOT Ag Expo in Minot, N. Dak. The 6700 ST is divided into four internal compartments and distributes seed on-the-go. The photo shows it towed behind a 75-ft. toolbar.

The unit is loaded and unloaded by a 10-in. dia., hydraulic-operated conveyor with a 15-in. wide belt. The conveyor is positioned with hydraulic cylinders controlled by a wireless handheld remote. The low profile hopper allows the tank to be filled from semi trailers and provides 100 percent cleanout. Load/unload rate is about 110 bu. per minute.

"As far as we know it's the biggest production air seeder on the market," says the company.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bourgault Industries, Ltd., P.O. Box 1118, 3915 North Broadway, Minot, N. Dak. 58702 (ph 701 852-8800) or P.O. Box 39, St. Brieux, Sask., Canada S0K 3V0).

Bourgault's 6000 Series Air Seeder is available with tank capacities up to 700 bu. Photo shows it towed behind a 75-ft. toolbar.

Ultraviolet light bulbs are passed over plants to kill crop diseases. An on-board generator provides the electricity.

UV Light Used To Kill Crop Disease

A Dutch company has developed an ultraviolet crop protection system to fight molds, fungus, bacteria and viruses on crops without the use of chemicals.

The system "applies" a small dose of ultraviolet light that's deadly to the pests, but harmless to the plants themselves. It has been tested in greenhouses, vineyards, orchards and even on field crops like potatoes.

The company, Clean Light, worked with the Wageningen University in the Netherlands to develop the technology. The idea is to pass a series of ultraviolet light bulbs over the plants. Different size units are used depending on the crop. An on-board generator provides the electricity.

The method is based on the principle that both fungi and green plants are sensitive to ultraviolet light, but that there's a big difference in the lethal dose it takes to kill them. Fungi can be killed by a very low dose, while green plants tolerate much higher doses of ultraviolet light without showing sings of stress.

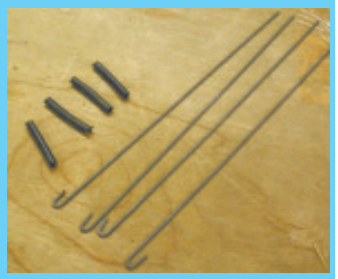
Clean Light says the idea stands to reason, given the fact that green plants survive and mostly thrive in full sunlight, while most fungi species only survive in surroundings that are sheltered from direct sunlight.

The new method leaves no residue on the crop, can be used under windy conditions, and avoids spray drift.

The company is interested in licensing the technology to other manufacturers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clean Light (ph 31 317 49 76 20; info @cleanlight.nl; www.cleanlight.nl).

Method leaves no residue on crop and can be used under windy conditions.



Feeder sets on top of wooden disc, which mounts on a metal pole. A wire ring below the disc has a series of 1 1/2-ft. long metal rods hanging from it. An electric bug zapper sets on ground below feeder and is plugged into a 110-volt outlet. Bug light is wired to metal ring, so that all the hanging rods are electrified.

Squirrels Get A "Charge" Out Of This Bird Feeder

"For years I've had a problem with squirrels tearing up my bird feeders. I finally came up with this idea, and I must say squirrels get a real 'charge' out of it," says Charles Teegarden, Kenosha, Wis.

His home-built feeder uses an old electric bug zapper to shock the seed-stealing squirrels.

The feeder sets on top of a 2 1/2-ft. dia. wooden disc made from 1/2-in. thick plywood. The disc mounts on a metal pole and is surrounded by a wire ring with a series of 1 1/2-ft. long metal rods hanging from it. The rods, hooked at the top, are suspended from the ring at 1 1/2-in. intervals by rubber spacers made from 1/4-in. dia. rubber tubing.

The bug light sets on the ground below the feeder and is plugged into a 110-volt outlet. The bug light is equipped with two grids, with a wire connected to each one. One wire is wrapped around the pole to complete the circuit. The other wire runs up alongside the pole and is connected to the perimeter wire, so that all the hanging rods are electrified.

"It works unbelievably well. I've made several of these bird feeders for my friends, and they all like them," says Teegarden. "The ring hangs outside the disc and also slightly below it, so there's no way a squirrel can go up the metal pipe and get around without touching one of the rods. It's amazing how fast squirrels learn to stay away. Once a squirrel gets shocked, he'll never try to climb up the pole again. If there's a new squirrel in the neighborhood he shinnies up the pole, but as soon as he touches a rod he jumps off and tears off through the yard.

"I still have a lot of squirrels eating bird feed off the ground, so I'm not starving them. I'm just keeping them out of my bird feeder."

The bug light provides about 18,000 volts. Teegarden says he found that it takes that much voltage to discourage the squirrels. "I started out using a 24-volt transformer and worked up to a 110-volt transformer, but it didn't phase the squirrels. I kept increasing the voltage until I found something that would stop them. An old electric fencer would work just as well as the bug light."

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