

Horse-Drawn Seeder Designed For Minimum Till

At just under 5 ft. wide, the Kombi-Séi "combination seeder" is designed for minimum tillage seeding with a single horse. The prototype seeder uses the latest components for a high-tech horse-drawn seeder.

"No-till and minimum tillage methods are gaining popularity among European farmers," says Paul Schmit, Schaff mat Päerd. The non-profit research group in Luxembourg designs and builds prototypes of new equipment for use with draft horses.

The Kombi-Séi has large rear wheels for low draft force and high transmission efficiency with its single chain drive and synthetic gear gearbox. Compatibility with the Mono-Rad forecart (Vol. 40, No. 1) reduces required draft force even more. Steering force is also reduced.

Lubrication is kept to a minimum with chain drives. All bearings and components in the drive train and the seeding mechanism are self-lubricating.

The seed hopper has 13 adjustable outlets, cam wheel seeding shaft and agitator shaft. The gate latches are adjustable, and it comes with a calibration tray. It has a 150-liter

capacity.

The 20-stage gearbox, secondary drive with two speeds (1.8 and 2.8 mph) and clutch are built by Fiona, a Danish farm equipment manufacturer. Using proven off-the-shelf components reduced development costs and gave instant credibility.

"We used RoTeC coulters from the German manufacturer Amazone," says Schmit. "They are widely used for minimum tillage seeding by tractor farmers in Europe."

The Kombi-Séi can be fitted with disc coulters followed by press rollers or a covering harrow. The other option is shoe coulters and a covering harrow.

Row widths include 2.5 in. with shoe coulters and grass seeding shoes, 4 in. with shoe coulters and 8 in. with disc coulters.

"Changing out the coulters is fast and easy and can be completed in less than 10 min.," says Schmit. "Future developments include retrofitting a crumbler and leveling roller in front of the coulters."

While still in the prototype stage, the Kombi-Séi isn't available yet for sale. However, Italian equipment maker Equi-Idea could build and market a small series of the



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seeders.

"Estimated price for the seeder would be around \$4,000," says Schmit.

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Back of seeder can be fitted with disc coulters followed by press rollers, or with this covering harrow.

"Made It Myself" Heavy-Duty Sprayer

After looking over boomless sprayers at a farm show, Alfred Taylor decided to put together his own trailing sprayer. His 300-gal. spray tank with high-pressure pump and rear-mount broadcast nozzle covers 60 ft. in a pass. At 25 gal. per acre, he covers around 12 acres with a fill, which works out well for him.

"We have a lot of small, hilly fields in my part of Tennessee, and a boom sprayer can be a problem getting hung up or dragging," says Taylor. "I've used this boomless sprayer on hay fields, pastures, and fence lines without a problem. Several neighbors have used it on corn, and it has worked well."

Taylor's brother gave him the rear end of a 10-ton running gear. He also picked up a heavy-duty agitator, an automatic rinse system for easy cleaning, and a 300-gal. spray tank.

"I bought most of the parts from Shoup Manufacturing, and a self-priming pump from Agri Supply of North Carolina. I plumbed the sprayer myself," says Taylor.

Taylor had the welders needed to build the sprayer, but vision problems and a lack of metal shearing equipment sent him to Bishop Fabricating in nearby Greeneville,

Tenn. Owner Scottie McGee took Taylor's sketches, wagon rear end and components and put the sprayer together.

"He did a really fine job. He made the cradle for the tank and balanced it, a tongue for the wagon rear end, and steps to walkways on either side, front and back of the tank," says Taylor. "I've had a stroke and am a little unsteady on my feet, so I wanted steps and a platform. Scottie added railings, which I really appreciated. When he finished, he spray painted it."

Taylor likes things simple, so he used water hoses with quick connects so they are easy to drain. Filling the sprayer is easy with a quick connect installed in the lid of the tank.

"I always hated standing there with a hose," says Taylor. "Now I hook up the hose and stand back watching until the tank is full."

Taylor is very pleased with how the sprayer turned out. He notes that with the sump and bottom filter unit, he can empty the tank down to about a quart of fluid. With the drain, it is easy to empty out when changing herbicides.

"I put new 1100 x 15 tires on to handle the weight of the full tank," says Taylor. "Everything about it is heavy duty. A neighbor bought a new one at a farm show,



Alfred Taylor's pull-type boomless sprayer is equipped with a 300-gal. spray tank and a rear-mount broadcast nozzle that covers 60 ft. in a pass.

and it already had several parts break down. Mine is still going strong."

Taylor estimates his custom fabricated sprayer cost him about \$2,500. He doesn't think he could find anything comparable on

the market.

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