

# Converted Sprayer Great For Late Season Cover Crop Seeding

Bryan Biegler has experimented with different ways of planting cover crops for several years, including aerial application and spinner-spreaders. The 80-ft. high-clearance sprayer he fitted with a seeder is the best method he has found so far. It allowed him to plant his cover crop mix in fully-grown corn in 2015 and 2016. He had better crop emergence in 2016 when he planted earlier in the season – around August 18 – because the crop canopy was less dense. With more sunlight reaching the soil and timely rain, the cover crop got off to a good start.

Planting earlier might be even better. The Lake Wilson, Minn., farmer has experimented with planting cover crops when the corn is waist high using a spinner/spreader. But the problem is timing. He is usually busy spraying crops then, and it takes a day or so to switch the sprayer over to seeding.

Hagie sells a 60-foot boom seeder, Biegler notes, but he needed an 80-ft. boom for his setup. He spent about \$30,000 for his seeder, which includes a Gandy air seeder and pipes that fit on the sprayer boom. He can switch back and forth from sprayer to seeder by exchanging the solution tank with the air seeder.

He has had good luck seeding all his blends including rye grasses, oats, rapeseed, turnips, radishes, etc., traveling about 12 mph using GPS just to enter into the right rows.

With experience planting on his property



**Bryan Biegler fitted this 80-ft. high clearance sprayer with a Gandy air seeder and a series of pipes that hang from the sprayer boom. He says it works great to plant cover crops in late season corn.**

and custom planting for other producers (3,500 acres altogether), he offers three pieces of advice.

“I watch for upcoming rains after the August spraying is done,” he says, noting he tries to plant just before the rains.

He has also noticed that fields with north/south rows had better emergence than east/west row fields.

Finally, if your schedule allows it, Biegler says he thinks planting cover crops even earlier, right after tassel, would be beneficial.

“So far I’ve been happy with the results of planting cover crops with reducing erosion and building soil health,” Biegler says.

There has been no reduction in yields because of the cover crops, and he hopes to see some yield increases in the future through improved soil health.

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**He’s had good luck seeding a variety of different seed blends including rye grasses, oats, rapeseed, turnips, and radishes.**

## Loader-Mounted Cover Crop Seeder

Mounting their Gandy air seeder on their tractor loader let Virgil Gutshall and his son get a head start on their cover crops. The Gandy unit had been installed on their liquid manure injection system (Vol. 40, No. 4).

“We wanted to seed cover crops in soybeans prior to leaf drop to establish the cover crop before combining,” says Gutshall. “Most farmers try to seed the cover crop after harvest, which gives it little time to grow before winter sets in.”

The first step was to mount the Gandy to a salvaged toolbar with drops to deliver seed between six 30-in. rows with each pass. They fabricated a base for the Gandy from channel iron.

The toolbar was in turn mounted to an old

bale hugger that had its arms removed. The bale hugger frame had been designed with a quick-tach coupler for their tractor mounted front-end loader.

“It was easy to run the electrical wires back to the tractor seat and install a switch to turn the Gandy on and off,” says Gutshall. “We used a hydraulic line from the loader to power the fan and used the hydraulics lever to control fan speed.”

Gutshall got a good stand of cover crop, thanks in part to a timely rain in September that helped germination. He reports that the seedlings were just coming through at harvest.

“It worked well enough that we will go to 12 rows next year by extending the toolbar



**Virgil Gutshall and his son mounted this Gandy air seeder on their front-end loader. “We use it to seed cover crops in soybeans before combining. It gives the crop more time to grow before winter sets in,” says Virgil.**

with some pipe and adding more drop tubes.”

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## 4-Bladed Saw Cuts Roadside Brush

Trimming branches and shrubs from field edges and roadside ditches is easy with the Quadsaw LRS from GreenTec. Recently introduced to the North American market, the rotating saw blades’ high-speed rotation produces a clean, smooth cut.

“The Quadsaw mounts on our Multi Carrier, which is available in 3 different sizes to fit any farm loader arms whether tractor, skid steer, mini-loader or telehandler,” says René Franck, GreenTec A/S. “A variety of working tools, including a hedge cutter, are available for the Multi Carrier, but the Quadsaw is the most popular.”

The Quadsaw comes in 4 models with working widths ranging from 4 1/2 ft. to nearly 8 ft. Weights for the 4 models range from 105 to 526 lbs. The smallest model, the LRS 1402, can slice through branches up to 4 in. dia., while the largest model, the LRS 2401, can handle branches up to 8 in. dia.

“The saw blades are carbide tipped for long life and minimal maintenance,” says Franck. “They cut the branch rather than shred it, which can introduce disease into the tree.”

The diameter of the individual overlapping blades on the 4 models ranges from 13 1/2 in. to 23 in. Quadsaw cutting angles can range 110 degrees from horizontal past vertical.

Although pricing may vary, Franck offered a rough estimate for Multi Carriers with matching Quadsaws in U.S. dollars. The smallest of the 3 carriers with the smallest Quadsaw starts at \$7,600. The largest carrier/Quadsaw combination has a starting price of \$12,800.

“Our first North American dealer is in Ontario,” says Franck. “However, we hope to expand with dealerships across Canada and the U.S. Our area sales manager Dennis Martin is handling inquiries on products and dealerships.”

Franck describes farmers as the main market for the carrier/Quadsaws. Roadside maintenance is another targeted market.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Martin, 46 Sparling Crescent, St Marys, Ont. Canada N4X 1C2 (ph 519 276-1230; www.GreenTecNorthAmerica.com).



**Loader-mounted Quadsaw uses 4 high-speed rotating blades to cut cleanly through tree branches and shrubs.**

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