

“Flow-Shields” Catching On Fast With Conventional & Organic Farmers For Non-Chemical Weed Control

Flow-Shields were invented by Curt Forde in June of 2011 while cultivating organic corn on wet bottom land that was tossing up slabs of dirt, damaging corn plants. His idea to solve that problem led to the development of Flow-Shields.

Flow-Shields were used successfully for 2 years before being introduced to farmers across the United States and Canada in the March, 2014 issue of FARM SHOW Magazine, and were later featured in the 2015 edition of Best of FARM SHOW.

Since then, thousands of Flow-Shields have been sold to row crop farmers across the country. “Flow-Shields eliminate the need for all kinds of old-fashioned shields such as rolling shields, side plates, hoods, and tunnel shields,” says Forde, Founder of Profit Organics.

Before the development of Flow-Shields, cultivating speed sometimes had to be drastically reduced based on variable soil conditions even within the same field. That was especially true when working in damp or wet soils that would throw up large chunks or slabs of dirt. The problem with using old-fashioned shields is that they prevented dirt from covering weeds completely between the corn plants in the row.

By using Flow Shields, you prevent the chunks of dirt from covering your crop by pulverizing them so dirt flows easily around stalks, covering smaller stemmed weeds and grasses. They also allow you to set your cultivator shovels 7 to 10 in. away from each side of the row, reducing “cultivator blight” and damage to crop roots. The steady stream of dirt flowing into the row area simply covers up the weeds instead of digging them out. This approach allows corn and bean plants to send out critical feeder roots without any setback from traditional cultivation.

While Flow-Shields improve the performance of tractor-mounted cultivators at slower and higher speeds alike, they also dramatically improve the performance of horse-drawn cultivators. Slow-paced cultivation in damp soils can leave softball-sized chunks of soil laying on the surface with weeds and grass still surviving in the root ball just waiting for rain to survive. Flow-Shields crush those root balls apart as the dirt is dug up from the shovel, causing the weeds to quickly wilt and die.

Flow-Shields mount on the front side of the cultivator shank directly over the shovel. Height can easily be adjusted to deliver a steady stream of crushed soil into the row at a consistent height on the lower



Flow shields are normally installed flat and can be adjusted to be angled toward or away from the row (as in this picture) to control the flow of more or less dirt into the row area.

portion of the bean and corn plants.

“Our customers tell us that Flow Shields are the best improvement they have ever made to their cultivator,” says Forde, noting that many farmers who have used them say Flow-Shields let them go much faster while doing a better job cultivating.

Flow-Shields can help farmers to achieve perfect, or near perfect, weed control in row crops without the use of chemicals, benefiting both organic and conventional farmers with herbicide-resistant weed problems.

“The ability to greatly increase speed of cultivation makes it possible and practical for larger farms to reduce or eliminate chemical herbicide use and take advantage of GMO-free and organic markets,” notes Forde.

Flow-Shields are sold for just \$10 apiece by Profit Organics, Forde’s multi-dimensional organic farming company located in Viroqua, Wisconsin.

“Profit Organics has a Research and Development Division that has been testing and collecting data on innovative new agronomic practices from 2013 to the present,” says Forde. “When complete, we think this database will change the future of organic farming, making it possible for large commercial farmers to go organic. Profit Organics is creating data points to determine and identify varying factors such as population, varieties, row width, fertility, planting dates, planting methods and more, all contributing to more profitable yields. You can get access to the information we have developed for \$25 at our website, www.profitorganics.com. Profit Organics is also on Facebook, Youtube and Instagram @ProfitOrganics.”



Flow-Shields simply bolt to cultivator shanks with no modification. Washers are used as spacers to firmly attach them to S-tine shanks.



Flow-Shields can also be used for depth control, eliminating gauge wheels on each row. The extra down pressure on the Flow-Shields helps crush dirt clumps.



In addition to manufacturing Flow-Shields, Profit Organics conducts extensive field research into innovative new agronomic practices. Current research data is included with full website access for only \$25.

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