



Polyplanter Jr. 2.0 can be ordered with from 5 to 12 point heads. Spacings vary from 5 in. with the 12-point head to 30 in. with the 2-point head.

“Plastic Poking” Planter

Ferris Farm’s new Polyplanter Jr. 2.0 makes plastic mulch work as well for small plots as it does for larger growers. The walk-behind planter also works well for planting in bare ground.

“If you plant an acre of a crop by hand through plastic mulch, it can cost up to \$1,500 in labor and take several days,” says Frank Ferris. “With the Polyplanter Jr. 2.0, you can walk and plant it in no more than 3 hrs.”

Ferris also makes a larger version of the Polyplanter (Vol. 41, No. 4) designed to be pulled behind a tractor.

“Singulation, especially with pelleted seed, is almost perfect,” says Ferris. “It does a fantastic job with round seed. It’s not a vacuum planter, but for a mechanical planter, it does a good job.”

The Polyplanter Jr. has recently undergone updates to make it more user-friendly and precise. “Changing spacing required removing many screws in the past,” says Ferris. “The new version requires removing only 4 screws to allow all the points and spacers to be removed and realigned. It takes only 15 min. to change spacing.”

The Jr. 2.0 has plates sized to match a wide variety of seeds. “It will plant even cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli seeds with accuracy,” he says.

The planter can be ordered with from 1 to 12 point heads. Spacings vary from 5-in. with the 12-point head to 30 in. with the 2-point head. Add-ons allow for a 2, 3 or 4-point head for spacing as wide as 30 in. Depth spacers



Walk-behind punch planter can be used to plant through plastic mulch or into bare ground.

are also available for shallower depth seed placement.

Ferris notes that the Polyplanter Jr. is easy to plant with in bare dirt. “You don’t have to push the dirt around,” he says. “Just roll the Jr. 2.0 over the row.”

Prices are based on the number of points per head. A 12-point unit offers the most options for seed spacing in the row. It is priced at \$510. Extra spacers are available for converting to fewer points, as are depth spacers for changing seed depth.

Check out the Polyplanter Jr. video at FARMSHOW.com.

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Starter Helper Easy To Add

Jim Gairns has an easy fix for starting an Allis Chalmers B. Normally the operator pushes the starter in with his heel. When an older owner of a B said he was having trouble doing so, Gairns came up with a simple solution. Others wanted the device when they saw how it worked.

“Pushing the starter on the B with the heel of your foot can be hard for older people to do,” says Gairns. “My hand starter lever makes it easy.”

The lever is a very simple device that is held in place ahead of the starter. It consists of a steel bracket that clamps to the front fender support bar. Two bolts go through the bracket to a flat bar with matching holes.

The lever rests against the starter. Simply pushing it forward activates the starter. A bolt in the bracket can be turned in or out as needed to keep the lever pressed up against the starter. The lever itself pivots on a bolt through the bracket.

“Removal is just as easy as installing,” says

Gairns. “Just remove the 2 bolts, pull the bracket and lever away, and the tractor is back to its original form.”

Gairns sells the bracket and 16-in. lever for \$100.

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Hand starter lever is designed for Allis Chalmers B tractors. It clamps to the front fender support bar. Pushing lever forward activates starter.



Four 10-in. long pipes attach to studs on tractor’s rear wheel hub. To wind up fence wire, Buelke jacks up wheel and puts tractor’s transmission in gear.



Wheel-Mounted Wire Winder

Don Buelke wanted an easier and faster way to wind up old fence wire, so he decided to use one of the rear wheels on his tractor to do the job.

He came up with a way to attach four 10-in. long pipes to the studs that protrude from the tractor hub. To wind up wire, he just jacks up the wheel and puts the tractor’s transmission in gear.

“It works great and results in neat, reusable wire rolls,” says Buelke. “I use the idea on my old Oliver 55 tractor, but it would work on any tractor. I stick a crowbar in the ground in front of the wheel to guide wire onto the rolls. It takes only about 10 min. to wind up 1,000 ft. of wire.”

To attach the pipes to the wheels, he welds a 5/8-in. nut inside the 1-in. dia. pipes so he can simply turn them onto the tractor bolts. To weld the nut in place, he drills a 1/4-in. dia. hole in the side of the pipe about an inch up from the end. Then he screws the nut onto a short bolt and inserts it inside so he can weld it in place. Once the nut is welded solidly inside the pipe, the bolt is unscrewed



To attach pipes to wheels, Buelke welded a 5/8-in. nut inside the 1-in. dia. pipes so he can turn them onto the tractor bolts. To weld nut in place, he drills a small hole in side of pipe just above the end.



and removed.

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His Invention Rolls Up Used Plastic Grain Bags

There’s good news for farmers who are looking for a way to roll up used grain bags. C. Wiesner Welding Ltd. of Saskatchewan builds a hydraulic roller that does the work for you, virtually hands-free.

Chad Wiesner says he started building the rollers when a neighboring farmer, who he does repairs for, asked if he could fabricate a machine to roll up the used plastic on his farm. Wiesner says, “There just wasn’t much out there at the time so I built one myself. Now I have 3 models and have sold more than 100 units around Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and even a few in the U.S. and Australia.”

Weisner’s grain bag rollers have a sturdy steel frame and can be mounted on a skid steer, on the pallet forks of a front-end loader, or on a trailer. They’re powered by an orbit motor using 15 to 20 gal. per minute oil flow. A gas power pack is available.

Weisner says the skid steer and loader-mounted models are very popular because the operator can raise or lower the roller to different heights. “When the roll is filled they can drop the finished ‘bale’ onto a pickup truck or trailer to haul it away,” says Wiesner.

His trailer-mounted model has a hydraulic kicker lift that raises a completed bale of plastic out of the machine and drops it on the trailer floor. All of the models include a twine dispenser so the finished roll can be tied.

Wiesner says he designed the roller so it’s very easy to use. “The operator just hooks the end of the plastic on the tapered shaft, then starts and stops the rolling motion with a lever that controls the hydraulics. Once you get it started it pretty much rolls itself.”



Hydraulic-powered grain bag roller can be mounted on a skid loader, front-end loader, or trailer.

The roller winds up to 300 ft. of plastic on one roll. Wiesner says, “The only trick a person needs to learn to unload a roll is to reverse the shaft and jerk it a bit to loosen the inside of the bale.” Two horizontal feeder bars on the front of the machine help remove old grain, grass, dirt or snow as a roll is made, and two upright steel bars guide the plastic. Large steel plates on both sides of the roller provide operator safety and a hard edge for the bale to form. The roller is priced from \$6,000 to \$7,500 (Canadian) depending on options.

Saskatchewan residents can qualify for a government rebate of about 50 percent of the roller purchase price using the Farm Stewardship Program, which is an effort to eliminate farm plastics from local landfills. Wiesner says rolling the bags makes it much easier for farmers to handle and store them at their farm and to bring the rolled plastic bales to recyclers.

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