



The MultiToolTrac, electric/diesel, hybrid tractor has a completely electric power train that makes use of 4 electric wheel motors.



Track width can be adjusted between 7 - 10 ft. on-the-go, and there are 5 positions for attaching tools and implements.

Dutch “Tool Carrier” Tractor Is An Electric/Diesel Hybrid

The new MultiToolTrac, electric/diesel, hybrid tractor adapts to the needs of each farm operation. The 4 electric wheel motors and wheel posts can slide parallel to the ground and can adjust wheel spacing on-the-go. The cab can slide forward or to the rear on the twin toolbar main frame for clear vision of front-mounted or belly-mounted tools.

“The MultiToolTrac design is very modular and therefore flexible and can adjust to any requirement from the user,” says Eelco Osse, CEO, Osse Equipment Manufacturing Group (OEMG), the Dutch manufacturer. “It is basically a 4-wheel driven and steered power train. The frame keeps it together, but it can be shaped as desired. It can be produced with or without a cab, as the fully electric power train can be autonomous.”

The electric power train offers more torque and traction, the latter being enhanced by the tractor’s 5-ton load capacity. Power capacity

ranges from four 22 kW batteries to four 44 kW batteries. Working time can be extended thanks to a 6-cylinder, 218 hp. diesel engine powered, on-board generator.

Osse explains that the electric power train delivers more power to implements than the diesel engine would with standard drivetrains.

“It can handle all the standard tools a 218 hp. tractor could, and even larger ones,” says Osse.

The MultiToolTrac name accurately depicts key features. The 18-ft. wheelbase provides stability and plenty of room for a wide array of implements. The 5 positions for attaching tools and implements give lots of versatility. Lift hitch and pto access ahead of the front wheels, behind the front wheels and at the rear of the tractor allow the MultiToolTrac to handle individual or multiple implements in a single pass. Loading platforms at the rear and at the front increase that versatility.

Wheel tracks (gauge) can be adjusted from a transit gauge of 7 ft., 4 in. to field gauges as great as 10 ft., 4 in. This facilitates controlled traffic farming for minimal compaction.

According to Osse, the concept for the MultiToolTrac originated with 7 Dutch farmers. They came to OEMG with a vision of a tractor that would better preserve soil quality and reduce ownership costs. The ability to easily control traffic paths in fields was key to that effort.

OEMG worked with the farmers to develop and test the MultiToolTrac. It is now in its third prototype with plans to start production in November of 2019.

“We have 5 pre-orders with a price range from \$257,000 to \$390,000, depending on customer requirements,” says Osse.

Customer options on the MultiToolTrac include customizable wheelbase, wheel tracks (including fixed), and ground-free

height.

As a build-to-order machine, Osse says the MultiToolTrac is available in all countries. Contact him for details.

Currently the company is working on a slightly smaller version. Plans are to introduce it later this year as an all-electric, autonomous tractor.

“We’ll be introducing it at Agritechnica in Hannover, Germany in November,” says Osse. “It will have a base price around \$179,000.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Osse Equipment Manufacturing Group, Turfkade 13, 7602 PA Almelo, Netherlands (ph 31 546-48 88 00; info@oem-group.com; www.multitooltrac.com; https://oem-group.com/en/blog/multi-tool-trac-innovation-for-even-better-rided-beds/).

His Tomato Collection Is At 5,000 Strong And Still Growing

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Craig LeHoullier doesn’t just like tomatoes. He *lives* tomatoes. He has more than 5,000 varieties and more come in all the time. Many of them are heirloom tomatoes that people have saved for years and then decided to send to The Tomato Man, as he’s known.

“I caught the heirloom bug in 1986 and became fascinated by them,” says LeHoullier. “People send me their family heirlooms, and sometimes I get to shepherd someone’s family treasure into the public domain. The joy of people seeing their heirloom in a seed catalog is so fulfilling.”

The first time that happened was in 1990. He was sent tomato seeds that had originally come from Cherokees in Tennessee more than a century earlier.

He grew out the seeds, tasted the tomato and named it Cherokee Purple for its heritage and purple tones. Based on taste alone, he soon had seeds on their way to friends like Mike Dunton, Victory Seeds, Molalla, Ore.

With LeHoullier’s recommendation, they tried it and quickly added the new old varietal to listings. Nearly 30 years later, it is one of the most popular heirlooms in the market.

This FARM SHOW writer understands why. It is a mainstay in our garden and a frequent visitor to our dinner table. It’s a super flavorful, full-bodied tomato that will never make the grade on looks alone. With its often green shoulders, various color shades and somewhat rough shape, it is far from the classic, red, round tomato, but it tastes great!

LeHoullier didn’t make a dime on the popularity of the tomato, which is the way he likes it. A retired chemist, he works with tomatoes for the love of the old varietals and their stories and the love of the people

he meets. His book “Epic Tomatoes” has become a classic for gardeners. He travels the country giving speeches and visiting gardens, spreading the word about heirloom seeds.

At home, he grows tomatoes, peppers and other plants, but mostly tomatoes. His collection keeps growing because people keep sending him family heirlooms.

Once those seeds are planted and the tomatoes harvested, seeds go into numbered envelopes and vials. Detailed descriptions of the seed, the plant and the fruit, as well as the story that went with it, are entered on spreadsheets. About every 14 to 15 years, a variety gets replanted to renew viability.

Each year LeHoullier plants as many as 5,000 seedlings of up to 200 different tomato varieties. He sells around 1,000 of them at farmers’ markets, plants some of each himself and gives the rest away. Of the different varieties, 10 to 15 are family favorites, a few more are recent heirloom arrivals and the remainder are a mix of renewal seeds from the collection and those from a side project... dwarf heirlooms.

“For the past 14 years or so, I’ve been involved in a breeding project with some wonderful people around the world,” says LeHoullier.

Dwarf tomatoes first showed up in the mid to late 1850’s, but not a lot was done to improve flavor. LeHoullier and his friends have been crossing them with heirlooms.

“A lot of people want to grow tomatoes on their deck or patio, but they don’t want an heirloom that will grow to 10 to 12 ft. tall,” says LeHoullier. “We now have 106 dwarf varieties that will grow to about 4 ft. and produce flavorful heirloom tomatoes. In a few



Craig LeHoullier grows more than 5,000 tomato varieties on his North Carolina farm. His collection keeps growing as people send him family heirloom varieties.

years we will be up to 150 or so.”

Like the Cherokee Purple, the dwarf tomato project is a grass roots effort with not a penny of support or profit to be had.

Houllier says he has been surprised at the interest he’s received in the project.

“We got lucky playing in a playground where no one else has been,” he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Craig LeHoullier, 1413 Acres Way, Raleigh, N.C. 27614 (nctomatoman@gmail.com; craiglehoullier.com).