



Tony Bunniss added a made-it-myself dethatcher to the front of his Deere riding mower and built a vacuum trailer to clear debris created by the dethatcher.

Home-Built Dethatcher, Lawn Vacuum

FARM SHOW reader Tony Bunniss wanted a way to mow and dethatch his 1-acre lawn quickly with a one-pass system.

His home-built vacuum dethatcher has swinging knife blades staggered every 1/2 in. on two rods that are 180 degrees apart. "Three sets of knives are on the ground at any time, which happens four times every revolution at about 300 to 350 rpm's."

The first version he built didn't take his steep terrain into consideration. Driving up the side of a ditch caused the vacuum hose to collapse, while going over hilltops made it stretch to the point of breaking.

The solution for Bunniss was to put two hitches on the trailer. In this version, the top hitch pushes the trailer back while driving up and tips it forward once the tractor makes it over the top. The vertical distance between the hitches is the same from the front and back, which ensures that the distance between the outlet of the fan/vacuum and the intake of the trailer stays consistent.

Bunniss's dethatcher was designed to be 5-ft. wide to match his 60-in. mower.

Looking forward, Bunniss is considering using the dethatcher to level out the portions of his lawn torn up by deer. There are also plans to hook the quick-hitch to the tractor's steering system to let the dethatcher turn



Dethatcher has swinging knife blades staggered every 1/2 in. on two rods that are 180 degrees apart.

corners automatically for easier navigation around trees and corners. He also plans to rebuild the vacuum trailer to streamline the process of dumping grass and leaves, either with hydraulics or an actuator.

"Dethatching a lawn with a rotary unit is not for the weak of heart. It has to be coupled with some sort of vacuum pick-up system otherwise it'll make a mess. This is especially true if the lawn has not been dethatched for many years."

Bunniss would be more than happy to help anyone who wants to build similar equipment.

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Cross auger attachment helps flow on flexible draper type swather and combine heads. It uses a flexible joint, does not need to be greased and has a patented stripper bar.

Header Cross Auger Speeds Material Flow

Ag Shield Manufacturing says its Cross Auger attachment improves material flow on draper harvesting heads. The auger fits all makes, models and sizes of rigid or flexible draper-type swather and combine headers.

Ag Shield says the auger connects to each end of the header with a flexible multi-cord and bonded rubber joint. The augers are joined in the middle by a chain coupler. That system allows the auger to operate without being affected by the flexing draper. It also eliminates the need for greasing and minimizes the maintenance that generally comes with high-wear parts.

The auger works efficiently because of a patented stripper bar that helps direct crop from the header to the auger for quicker feeding. Center paddles on the Cross Auger are mounted at a 45-degree angle to help efficiently push material away from the auger and into the center drum fingers. The design helps eliminate shattering and reduces the possibility of crop stems wrapping on the auger.

Unlike some products in the marketplace, the Ag Shield Cross Auger spans the full width of a header, which ensures that even lodged materials cut by any part of the header



Auger can flex with the head and is mounted at a 45 degree angle and spans the full width of the header.

will be conveyed to the center.

The 6-in. dia. Cross Auger pipe has 3-in. high flighting that's banded at a 16-in. pitch. The Cross Auger is powered by a hydraulic motor with independent adjustable speed control. It operates at low rpm's to reduce shatter loss and prevent wrapping. It's available in colors that match different model headers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ag Shield Manufacturing, 170 Highway 83 North, Benito, Manitoba Canada R0L 0C0 (ph 866-493-8877; sales@agshield.com; www.agshield.com).



Combcut weeder is best suited for stiff weeds and can be used above the crop in corn, potatoes, root vegetables and legumes.

Combcut Weed Cutter Works In Standing Crops

The Combcut weed cutter can selectively cut weeds down within a growing crop without harming the crop.

This innovative farm tool is produced by the Swedish company Lyckegard. Thanks to its adjustable blades, weeds that are stiffer or thicker than the crop are mowed down while slender crops pass through the machine unharmed.

"Timing is crucial when selectively cutting weeds," shares Elin Laxmar, agronomist and marketing specialist for Lyckegard. "It matters both when it comes to the growth stage of the crop and weed and the relation in growth between the two."

By cutting weeds early in their growth

stage, farmers can prevent them from going to seed and spreading throughout the field. And, because the Combcut takes weeds down during their weakest stage of development, it reduces the amount of weed biomass above and below ground over time.

Farmers can adjust the Combcut's knife angle and tilt angle based on the height and density of their crop and weeds. This makes it possible to use the Combcut in early summer and again later in the season to cut weeds that grow above the crop.

While the Combcut is primarily marketed towards organic farmers, it's an effective cultivation strategy for any grower who wants to reduce their herbicide use. It's also



Combcut is available from 18 to 28 ft. working widths and can be front or rear mounted. It uses two double acting hydraulic outlets for brush/reel operation.

possible to use the Combcut within spray-free zones like lakes and sensitive habitats and as a weed-removal solution in rainy and windy conditions when spraying isn't effective.

The Combcut is best-suited for stiff weeds such as thistle, charlock, rumex, sow thistle, dandelion and lamb's quarters that tend to flourish around cereal crops and in grassland. It's also possible to use it in corn during the early stages and for potatoes, root vegetables, and legumes, so long as it's used above the crop.

According to Laxmar, Lyckegard is continuing to explore the Combcut's effectiveness for other forms of weed removal.

"There has also been some testing done

on blackgrass in cereals by customers in the Netherlands and the UK, but that's something we need to evaluate further."

The Combcut is currently available in working widths of 18 to 28 ft. and can be mounted to either the front or rear of a tractor. The tractor must also have two double-acting hydraulic outlets for brush/reel operation and folding during transport.

Contact the company directly for pricing information.

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