



Dual-wheel tree-planting machine has 30 hollow spokes per wheel. Operator places plant cuttings inside spokes and sliding hammers knock them into the ground.

World's Fastest Tree Planter?

You've never seen anything like this dual-wheel tree-planting machine from New Zealand that its inventors claim is the world's fastest tree planter.

"We built it from the ground up out of odds and ends a couple of years ago. We couldn't find any other machine that would plant poplar and willow cuttings as fast and as accurately," says Bill Chapman, manager of the Earnsclough Tree Nursery at Alexandra, New Zealand. "Last year we used it to plant 60,000 cuttings in only one week with just three people. In past years, it took four people two weeks to plant 30,000 cuttings by hand."

The planter, which mounts on the 3-pt. hitch of a utility-size tractor, consists of a pair of 6 1/2-ft. dia. wheels. Each wheel has 30 hollow spokes spaced 6 in. apart at the rim. A 9-in. long slot cut out of the middle of the spokes accommodates cuttings up to 8 in. long and 1 3/4 in. in dia.

Spokes are fitted with 14-in. long by 1-in. dia. steel rods weighing about 6 1/2 lbs. They act as sliding hammers to tap cuttings into the soil behind rippers mounted on the planter frame that run 8 in. deep just ahead of each wheel.

Cuttings are placed into slots at about 12 o'clock by riders standing on a platform mounted on front of the planter. When the cutting reaches 6 o'clock the hammer falls and taps it into the soil. A fixed steel band

on the outside of the rim prevents the cutting from falling out of the spoke before the hammer taps it in. A pin welded to the weight and protruding through the slot in the spoke prevents the hammer from falling out.

Wheels are fitted with teeth, made out of cut-out sections of spokes, and lugs, made out of 3/8-in. dia. rod, to help maintain traction and, thus, uniform tree spacing. The planter is fitted with folding markers, which are made out of 1 in. sq. tubing with lawnmower wheels on the ends, to help ensure straight rows.

The machine was built to plant rows 5 ft. apart. Row widths could be changed by straddling rows, Chapman notes.

Cuttings are planted 7 in. deep in spring and are harvested when they're 6 1/2 ft. tall in late fall or early winter. They're sold to farmers for shelter belts, and communities for various tree-planting projects.

The only parts we bought for the planter were rims, hubs, bolts and paint which cost about \$1,500 altogether," he says. "The lugs on the wheels are showing fatigue cracks after only two years. I'll have to replace them with something more substantial before next season."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Chapman, Earnsclough Tree Nursery, 120 Earnsclough Road, Alexandra, Central Otago, New Zealand (ph 25 396-803).

Pull-Type Bale Handler Carries, Stacks Up To Three Big Bales

"My 2-wheeled bale mover-stacker loads and transports three round bales or two big square bales at a time. It lifts high enough to stack two high, load onto wagons, or drop into a bale feeder," says Ervin Matzke, Rochester, Minn..

The heavy-built rig operates off tractor hydraulics and is equipped with two sets of bale-lift forks. Each set of forks operates independently to allow for picking up, stacking, or dumping bales one or two at a time. Retracting the lift cylinders brings the bales to rest on a pair of self-leveling steel frames. By placing one bale on top of two that are already on the ground, you can lift three round bales at a time. The rig is equipped with four hydraulic cylinders - two for lifting bales and two for tilting them. All operations are controlled by a 3-way adjustable valve

mounted on front that can be reached from the tractor seat.

"It eliminates the need for a front-end loader and prevents damage caused by bales bouncing on your tractor's front end or 3-pt. hitch," says Matzke. "The self-leveling action keeps the weight of the bales over the axle."

Flashers and a slow moving vehicle sign are visible under the bales in transport. A 7,000-lb. adjustable jack lets you park the trailer even when it's loaded.

Sells for \$4,990 which includes an adjustable hitch with clevis - a pintle or ball hitch is optional. An optional electric hydraulic pump and reservoir is available for use with pickups and sells for \$886.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ervin Matzke, Bale-Hand, Box 7225, Rochester, Minn. 55903 (ph 800 369-0482).



Marion Calmer pulls this modified Case-IH 955 planter, set up for 15-in. rows, behind a Yetter coulters cart and a DMI NutriPlacer 1000.

HERE'S HOW WELL-KNOWN NARROW ROW CORN GROWER PLANTS HIS CROP

Modified Case-IH Planter Handles 15-In. Rows

Last fall Marion Calmer, Alpha, Ill., attracted a lot of attention when he unveiled his first-of-its-kind 15-in. row corn head. FARM SHOW recently got a look at the planter setup he's using to put in 15-in. corn.

He pulls a Case-IH 955 15-in. corn planter behind a Yetter coulters cart equipped with a pair of tanks for applying phosphorus in the row. A DMI NutriPlacer 1000 rig, equipped with a tank carrying 1,100 gal. of 28% nitrogen, rides ahead of the coulters cart. The nitrogen is applied 2 in. to either side of the corn rows and 3 in. deep.

Surface residue can cause a lot of problems in 15-in. rows so Calmer mounted Auscherman spring-loaded row cleaners ahead of the row units, and also set back

every other row unit on the planter for improved trash clearance.

He also moved the seed modules in and up, raising them 12 in. to provide more room to work and a better angle on the seed tubes. Seed is blown at a 45 degree angle instead of horizontally for more accurate seed placement.

Calmer injects all of his nitrogen at planting time, applying about 120 lbs. of 28 percent nitrogen.

A harrow is pulled behind the planter. For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marion Calmer, 550 N. Knox, Alpha, Ill. (ph 309 334-2609).

