

Dirt Lockers interlock to create a planter retaining wall.



Panels Lock In Plants On Slopes

Dirt Lockers hold dirt in place, even on steep slopes, and allow plants to get established. The recycled and repurposed high-density polyethylene retainers can be interlocked to match the length and width of a slope. Unlike conventional rectangular retainers, Dirt Lockers conform to the hillside, holding dirt and moisture, even in heavy downpours. They're not subject to washouts, as can happen with berms.

"When I first developed the concept, it was for my own fruit trees," recalls Mark Trebilcock, Dirt Locker. "I was in an environment close to high desert, and even with a sprinkler system, I couldn't get my trees to keep their blossoms on. Water found its way past the trees and took soil with it. I installed individual prototype panels, and with the same sprinkler system, I soon found I was overwatering. The panels held and retained the water."

Seeing his results, Trebilcock thought orchard growers might be interested. However, when he modified the panels to interlock, do-it-yourselfers, gardeners and landscapers showed the most interest.

"Since introducing the interlocking panels, which are made in Nebraska, I've shipped product to Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the U.K., pretty much all over the globe," says Trebilcock. "I've sold them all across the U.S., including Alaska."

Dirt Lockers come in three sizes and black and brown coloring. The mini Dirt Locker panel is 24 in. end to end and 7 1/2 in. at its curving center point. It's intended for small or distinctively shaped areas with 25 to 45-degree slopes.

The medium Dirt Locker panel is 48 in. end to end and 9 in. at its widest point. It's designed for use on mild slopes from 10 to 24 degrees. The large Dirt Locker panel is also

48 in. long but is 12 in. wide at the center. It's designed for steep slopes of 25 to 45 degrees. Panels can also be used in sets of two each as individual tree/plant rings.

Each Dirt Locker panel has a male and female tab at opposite ends for interlocking. A slot in the center of a panel lets multiple rows of panels be locked to each other. Interlocked panels are anchored with rebar J hooks at row ends and each interlocking point. The J hooks are 16-in., 3/8 in. rebar and 16 and 24-in., 1/2-in. rebar. The soil type determines which J hook is recommended for installation.

The key to successful installation, suggests Trebilcock, is to ensure each installed panel has a rounded C shape when filled with dirt. Rows are offset. Once a panel cell has become saturated, excess water trickles between panels and the panel below. This cascading effect slows run-off, maintaining soil structure and preserving essential nutrients. Customers report that their Dirt Locker installations have held up under hurricanes and torrential downpours.

Installation is simple. Panels are assembled to match the slope's length and width, carried into position, anchored and backfilled with soil. Trebilcock recommends adding plants to at least 50 percent (70 percent is ideal) of the panel/cells, as root structure helps stabilize and secure the system and the slope.

Dirt Locker panels are only available directly from the company. Prices vary by number and size, with a 10-pack of mini panels priced at \$89.50 and a 100-pack priced at \$699. A 10-pack of large panels is priced at \$159.50, and a 100-pack is priced at \$1,295. J hooks come in 10-packs, priced from \$39.50 to \$55.50, depending on size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dirt Locker (ph toll-free 833-697-5673; info@ dirtlocker.com; www.dirtlocker.com).

DIY Chute Simplifies Salt Delivery

An old fertilizer hopper repurposed as a mouth for a salt chute simplifies Stanley Whittle's water softener's monthly service.

"When the service technician came by, we had to be at home to let him in," says Whittle. "Then we had to worry about him carrying bags of salt down our basement stairs."

Whittle eliminated the problems when he mounted a salt chute in his attached garage. He took advantage of a basement window that remained after adding the garage several years earlier.

"I was helping my son move to a new house, and the worn-out fertilizer spreader ended up in the throw pile," says Whittle. "He didn't want it, so I took it home and kept it."

Whittle had seen commercial salt chutes on the sides of houses and decided to replicate one. He mounted the spreader hopper to the wall above the window with stainless steel bolts and a toilet flange between it and a 4-in. pvc pipe running to the softener. With the chute in place, only one step remained. "I had to move the water softener in the



Whittle mounted a salt chute in his garage to eliminate hauling salt downstairs to his water softener.

basement under the window," says Whittle. "Now, all we have to do is leave the garage door open for the service technician, who refills the softener through the chute. No more carrying bags of salt down the steps."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stanley Whittle, 22041 Grandview Rd., Elkader, Iowa 52043 (ph 563-245-2618; twinval@alpinecom.net).

Single Disc Bedder Built Better

SA-AG has redesigned its single disk bedder to be lighter yet stronger. The new folding toolbar's geometry and lighter tubing bridge the gap between strength and price.

"Our Latest Design Single Disc Bedder (LD SDB) maintains the rigidity and durability of the original design, yet is competitive in price with other single disc bedders," says Kory Castilaw, SA-AG.

The LD SDB mounts the proven row units of the original design. The single-gang design offers better row-to-row stability and less maintenance. However, mounting to the toolbar has changed. They now mount to the front and rear tubing on the toolbar, with each row secured with heavy-duty U-bolts. The mount ensures spacing and accuracy are easily maintained.

Thanks to the new mount, each row unit acts as a stringer to reinforce the toolbar. Attaching the leading edge of each row unit to the front tubing on the toolbar also helps with counterweight as the entire unit's center of gravity is shifted closer to the tractor hitch.

The LD SDB retains the adjustable foot pieces that allow each blade to be adjusted from 18 degrees to 24 degrees or 30 degrees in minutes. Combined with the narrow single gang design, the bedder can run in any soil condition on any row spacing.

The in-house-designed, notched, 24-in. blades remain unchanged. They aid in trash flow and increase cutting pressure to better size material and debris. Each blade is attached to its hub assembly with the



Thanks to the new mount, each row unit acts as a stringer to reinforce the toolbar.

adjustable foot pieces, with a load rating of 4,500 lbs.

Instead of rubber-tired wheels, 28-in., all-steel, heavy-duty stabilizers slice through the ground. Depth bands on either side help maintain working depth.

Optional attachments include double baskets or a basket and roller combo. Heavy-duty arms and bushings support each rear attachment for optimum down pressure with added springs.

LA SDBs are available in various configurations and row spacing ranging from 19 to 60 ft.

"Due to fluctuations in material prices, contact our offices for current pricing," says Castilaw.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SA-AG Manufacturing, 798 Costello Rd., Oak Grove, La. 71263 (ph 318-501-1366; info@sa-agmfg.com; www.sa-agmfg.com).



Power Dog Equipment's Grazer was designed for the rental market, farms, and industrial use.

XL Walk Behind Brush Mower

You don't get a walk-behind brush mower any bigger than the Grazer from Power Dog Equipment. Its 48-in. cutting deck can clear up to 1 1/4 acres per hour. Its 24-hp. Kawasaki engine supplies plenty of power to handle tall weeds and brush at up to 6 mph.

"As far as we know, it's the only 48-in. walk-behind brush cutter," says Lavon Kuhns, Power Dog Equipment. "It has a hydrostat transaxle with a drive motor for each wheel. This gives the operator steering similar to a zero-turn mower."

The Grazer features a 7-gauge deck and two dual-sided blades. It's 83 in. long, 52 in. wide, 44 in. high, and weighs 600 lbs. It comes standard with 18 x 9.5 agricultural-style drive tires, but turf tires are an option. The full-width rear discharge ensures no clogging or cut overload.

"Our fountain style controls are new to the industry," says Kuhns. "The handles come toward the center before looping around like a fountain and curving out. They provide a natural, relaxed position for the hands. With our hydrostat, you have infinitely variable

speeds simply by leaning into the control bar."

The company prides itself on building commercial-weight equipment. That's equally true of the Grazer.

"It's built like a tank," says Kuhns. "It's heavy-duty and ready to withstand abuse."

The Grazer was designed for the rental market, farms, and industrial use. However, according to Kuhns, it's also finding another market.

"We've seen a lot of units going into the residential market, homeowners with quite a bit of acreage," he says. "It's ideal for maintaining fencerows and trails through the woods."

The Grazer's list price is \$7,900. The company has 16 dealers around the U.S. and Canada, but it will sell directly if no dealers are in the area.

"We're always looking to add more dealers," says Kuhns.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Power Dog Equipment, 10101 Shively Rd., Nappanee, Ind. 46550 (ph 574-862-4592; www.powerdodgeequipment.com).