

Spoked closing wheels, which were invented by Walt Carroll, Lytle, Texas, are now being manufactured and marketed by Acra Plant.

CURVED SPOKES PENETRATE HEAVY TRASH AND CLOSE THE SEED SLOT

Acra-Plant Selling Spoked Closing Wheels

Those "new and improved" closing wheels we told you about last summer (Vol 17, No. 4), invented by Texas farmer Walt Carroll, are now being sold by Acra-Plant, Garden City, Kan.

"Optimizer" closing wheels have curved spokes made from rock-resistant ductile steel. According to the company, they work better than conventional V-press wheels because the action of the spokes virtually eliminates sidewall compaction caused by the planter disc openers and the curved angle of the spokes allows them to penetrate heavy trash to close the seed slot. Because the spokes on the wheels slope backward, they're completely self-cleaning.

"The unique closing action gently pinches moist soil around the seed and leaves the soil above the seed in a mulched condition," says Bob William, president. "The seed zone warms up sooner, creating the potential for quicker germination, greater root development, and faster emergence."

The wheels are designed to fit existing tail assemblies on most planters with V-type closing wheels. The company is working on adapting the wheels to planters using other closing systems.

Sells for \$138 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Acra-Plant, Box 1114, 1285 Acraway, Garden City, Kan. 67846 (ph 800 835-9190).

New Options For Martin Row Cleaners

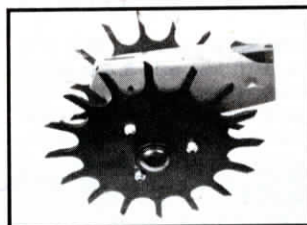
Martin row cleaners now come in four new styles, according to inventor-manufacturer Howard Martin, Elkton, Kent.

- **Wrap around row cleaner** - Mounts trash-clearing wheels just ahead of existing no-till coulters to prevent hairpinning of residue. Subframe is free to pivot at the rear. Fits Deere 7000, 7100, 7200, 7300 planters; Kinze (early and late), and White 6100 (early and late), and is also compatible with most unit-mounted no-till coulters. Sells for \$249.

- **Bar float** - Heavy duty, adjustable spring-loaded bracket places row cleaner wheels on the fertilizer bar, allowing them to float and follow the ground contour. Can be used with existing Martin row cleaners or with any 1 1/2 or 2-in. sq. tube wheel assembly that has wheels running side by side. Sells for \$64.

- **Row worker** - Bracket and hardware position row cleaner wheels one ahead of the other for increased seed zone tillage. Bolt-on axles have extra tilt to throw residue farther. Wheels may be set side by side for regular row cleaning. Sells for \$10.

- **Spading closing wheels** - Sharp-toothed wheels replace conventional smooth closing wheels and cover the



Martin recently came out with these spoked closing wheels.

seed without sealing the surface above it. Wheels push soil toward seed, at seeding depth, then crumble the surface layer as they loosen the sidewall. One row unit consists of two wheels, two hubs, and two bearings. Designed for Deere 7000 and early Kinze planters. Sells for \$119.

Also available are optional internal deflectors to clean teeth in sticky soil conditions, and bolt-on side treader wheels that prevent furrowing and "scooting" in loose soil conditions.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Howard Martin, Kentucky Farms Inc., 169 Allegre Road, Elkton, Kent. 42220 (ph 800 366-5817 or 502 265-5817).



Neaglin says new-style spoked closing wheels, which have reversed tines, work better than regular row-clearing wheels.

He Mounts New Spoked Closing Wheels On Front Of Planter

Texas farmer Gerald Neaglin mounts new Acra-Plant spoked closing wheels - which were invented by Texas farmer Walt Carroll - on front of his Deere Max-Emerge planter to use as row cleaners.

"They work slick, better than I ever dreamed," says Neaglin, of Atascosa.

He tested the closing wheels last fall on his 6-row planter, mounting the closing wheels on two row units. They worked so well he plans to use them on all rows this spring and has also mounted them on his cousin's 6-row planter.

"The curved, 4-in. long spikes move trash aside while just scraping the top of the soil. They comb through heavy residue without plugging up and don't move any soil, even if I run them 4 in. deep," says Neaglin. "There's no need for guards on them because trash won't wrap up around the wheels. They're built so strong that rocks won't bend or break them. When they hit a rock they actually lift the planter right up. I think they'll last three or four times longer than conventional Martin-type row cleaners. I was already using Acra-Plant closing wheels on back of my planter.

"I removed the Deere disc furrowers from my planter and bolted the Acra-Plant closing wheels on, using the disc

furrower mounting brackets. Before I used the Deere disc furrowers, I had been using Martin row cleaners. However, I wasn't happy with either of them. The Martin row cleaners worked alright if I didn't run them too deep. However, in heavy corn stubble the tines would often ball up with trash. The tines are only 1 1/4 in. long so if they went a little too deep, the wheel hub tended to gouge the soil and I ended up planting too deep. I had to raise the planter and move it forward until I could plant on level ground again. Also, rocks tended to bend or break the tines. I got tired of buying replacement wheels. When you pay \$280 per row for row cleaners they should last for more than one year.

"I read a story in FARM SHOW about a farmer who used old rotary hoe wheels as row cleaners. However, I think the Acra-Plant closing wheels work better than rotary hoe wheels because the tines are curved at a sharper angle and do a better job of combing through trash without lifting it up. Also, very little modification is required to mount them."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Neaglin, Box 1304, Atascosa, Texas 78052 (ph 210 709-4225).



Narrow-Wheel "In Crop" Spot Sprayer

"I made this 3-wheel hi-boy spray rig for spraying weeds in my irrigated winter wheat fields," says Bill Copenhaver, Wilbur, Wash.

"You can drive it through fields in any direction and do virtually no damage thanks to 4-ft. dia. wheels that are just 1/4-in. thick, with small 'grousers', made out of pieces of angle iron, welded to the front two wheels. The rear wheel casters.

"The two front drive wheels are chain-driven by individual hydraulic motors on separate valves so I use the valves - which

are operated by foot pedals - to steer with. Leaves my hands free to run a spray wand.

"The hydraulic pump is a piston-type driven by an 18-hp. Briggs & Stratton motor. The rig is fitted with a 15-ft. spray boom and a 35-gal. spray tank with a 12-volt pump.

"You could use this narrow wheeled spray rig to spot spray any solid-seeded crop."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Copenhaver, Rt. 1, Box 88, Wilbur, Wash. 99185 (ph 509 647-2427).