

Can You Use A Mud Mule?

You can make up to 10,000 or more bricks a day with the "Mud Mule", a new do-it-yourself brick-making machine that's unbelievably simple, doesn't cost a fortune and requires comparatively little labor to operate.

In addition to bricks (3 by 3 by 9 in.) the Mud Mule, introduced by Methods Manufacturing Co., Austin, Texas, is available with a wide variety of forms for making other concrete products, including fence posts up to 8.5 ft. long, patio stones or adobe blocks.

"This machine is designed as an alternative to conventional building practices and costs," David Dennis, co-owner of Methods Manufacturing, told FARM SHOW. In most cases, brick and other products produced by the machine will be 25% to 50% less expensive."

Suggested retail cost of the Mud Mule is \$2,495.

For conventional size brick (3 by 3 by 9 in.) the wooden mold used with the machine makes 108 bricks at a time (in one drop). The machine requires a space measuring 13 ft. by 5 ft. for each drop cycle. A typical mortar mix operation producing 3,500 bricks per day requires approximately one-half acres of space to accommodate the mixer and to provide space for stacking and curing the

bricks. A typical mixer operation, says Dennis, allows one-half day for manufacturing, and one-half day for stacking and cleanup. Mixing by hand, two men can mix and pour one cycle or drop (108 standard size bricks) in 10 to 15 min. says Dennis. Using ready-mix concrete, three men can pour 3,000 to 3,500 bricks per hour. Generally, the bricks can be handled after 24 hours of setup time, and can be stacked or palletized after 3 to 7 days, depending on weather and temperature conditions.

The Mud Mule (also sold as the Mold Master) is equipped with a hopper which moves back and forth to automatically load "mud" into individual molds. As the Mud Mule is pulled forward from one mold to the next, it automatically rolls out a long strip of plastic on which each batch of freshly-poured bricks is laid. You can make brick or other products in almost any color you chose simply by using colored concrete.

For a detailed information packet on how the machine operates, and cost calculations to help estimate its profit-making potential, send \$2 and your name and address to: FARM SHOW Followup, Methods Manufacturing, 1363 Waterpark Road, Austin, Tex. 78758 (ph. 512 836-0929).



Quacker-Whacker — featuring 18 ft. long brush made of nylon carpeting — is mounted on Versatile 400 swather.

HUGE CARPET ROLLER BRUSHES CHEMICAL ON TALL-GROWING WEEDS

The Quacker-Whacker

Most exciting new development in weed control we've seen lately is the amazing Quacker Whacker, developed by a group of innovators in and around Roseau, Minn.

It all began early last spring. Area farmers, who for years have been fighting a losing battle with quackgrass, got together with a few businessmen and area weed specialists to "brainstorm" new strategy built around Monsanto's new Roundup herbicide.

The problem: How to get the herbicide on quackgrass and tall growing weeds without getting any of it on the lower growing crop below. "We experimented with a recirculating type sprayer for applying Roundup but didn't feel it was the answer. Every time the horizontal spray stream hits a weed, it splashes some herbicide on the crop below. We also had problems with the horizontal-type sprayer in wind," explains Dwight Roll, who came up with a totally different experimental approach to the problem.

His solution: Brushing herbicide on tall growing quackgrass with a giant-size roller brush made out of carpeting. Called the Quacker-Whacker, the device brushes chemical on the tall growing weeds, killing them on contact — without splashing or spilling a drop of chemical to harm the crop below.

Dwight emphasizes that, at present, the Quacker-Whacker project is experimental. "We're hopeful that Roundup will soon receive full label clearance for this type of brush application on tall weeds in lower growing crops," he told FARM SHOW. "Meanwhile, we plan to move full speed ahead with plans for having the Quacker-Whacker applicator produced commercially. We've compared notes with a few manufacturers and would welcome the opportunity to visit with any others that may be interested."

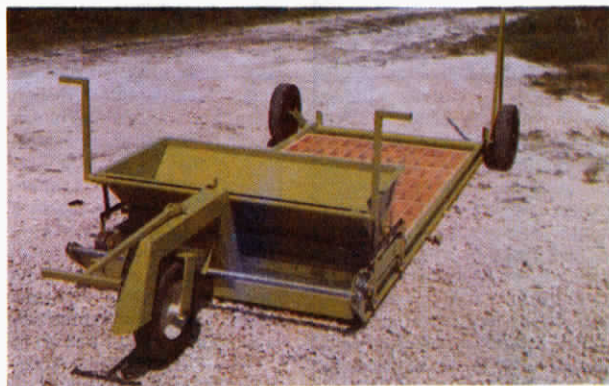
Dwight and several others in-

volved in developing the new brush-type applicator have applied for a patent. They built the original prototype in 3 days last June, using a Model 400 Versatile hydrostatic self-propelled swather. They removed the header and replaced it with the Quacker-Whacker assembly.

The brush is a 20 ft. long cylinder covered with nylon-dacron carpeting. Herbicide is pumped from a supply tank mounted on the swather and fed onto the carpet through a perforated hose. Movement of the rotating cylinder, along with a wiper blade, helps hold the spray solution to the carpet so it doesn't spill or splash on the crop. Height of the roller is adjusted so it touches tall growing weeds but not the crop below. Controls allow the driver to adjust height and rotating speed of the roller, travel speed, and the amount of spray material pumped onto the carpeted roller.

"It works great," reports Dwight, who, pending clearance for using Roundup to control weeds in growing crops, envisions a multitude of uses for this new way to "rescue" a wide variety of crops from tall growing weeds. Possible uses include:

- Removing volunteer corn in soybeans. "This could be one of its really big uses. It would be faster and easier than chopping corn out of beans by hand," Roll points out.
- Removing quackgrass and other tall growing weeds, including undesirable tall growing bluegrass plants, from bluegrass.
- Because there is no spilling, splashing, misting or dribbling of the brushed-on spray material, Dwight feels the Quacker-Whacker offers advantage over horizontal type sprayers. What's more, the brush applicator's operating efficiency isn't bothered by wind. "In fact, wind is actually a help rather than a hindrance to the Quacker-Whacker," explains Dwight. "It keeps the top of weeds bobbing back and forth, thus



Hopper on the Mud Mule rolls on end rails to drop "mud" into mold. Makes 108 standard size bricks per cycle or "drop".

increasing the chance of their coming in contact with the roller brush." Only a portion of a weed has to come into contact with the brush. If only one leaf, for example, comes in contact with the roller, the chemical Roundup will translocate from the leaf through the entire plant to completely kill it — roots and all.

• Operating distance between the roller and the crop itself is determined, in part, by how level the ground surface is. On a smooth soil surface and relatively flat terrain, the 20 ft. long cylinder can be operated

within 2 in. of the crop, Roll points out.

He anticipates that the Quacker-Whacker attachment will eventually be commercially available for easy on and off application to a wide variety of high clearance, self-propelled rigs. He foresees a wide variety of combination uses with 3 pt. and toolbar equipment whereby the Quacker-Whacker could be combined with other field-operations.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dwight Roll, Roseau, Minn. 56751 (ph. 218 463-2661).