



Three rows of slanted teeth at rear pack soil while five rows up front work like conventional harrow.

PACKS THE SOIL AT SEED LEVEL

Packer Harrow Uses Tines To Pack Soil

"It's the first and only packer that packs the soil at seed level and leaves

loose soil above," says Paul Gutschmidt, chief engineer and plant manager, Summers Mfg. Co., Inc., Maddock, N.Dak. The company has come up with a new packer harrow that uses sloping "reversed" harrow teeth to pack seed and soil at seed level rather than from above, replacing the need for heavy spiral packers.

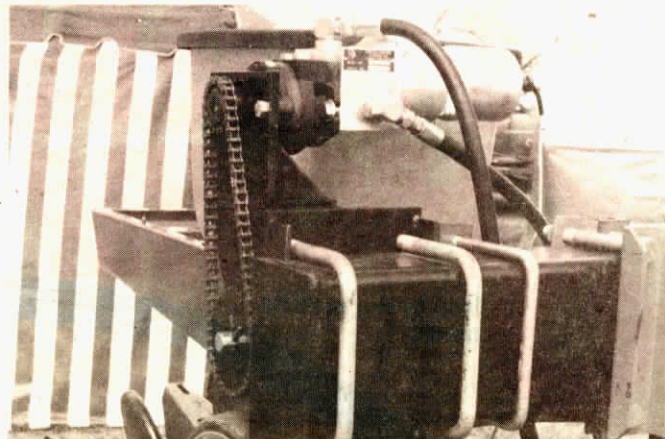
The new "Superpacker" has five rows of conventional harrow teeth up front and three rows of packer teeth at rear. Adjustable compression springs allow the packer teeth to exert as much pressure per foot as conventional spiral packers. The key advantage is that they pack at seed level and below.

The new packer harrow can be used for either pre-seeding seedbed preparation, or for post-seeding packing to draw moisture up to seed level. In addition, the packer units can be locked up into the up, non-operating position, transforming the machine into a conventional harrow. The heavy trash-clearing 14-in. packer teeth are staggered every 2 1/4 in to provide uniform packing over the entire seed bed.

"The idea is to leave relatively loose soil above the packed seed area. This discourages weed seed germination and provides a natural moisture barrier by breaking up the capillary action that would otherwise draw moisture to the surface. In effect, this traps moisture at seed level. It also eliminates problems associated with spiral packers, such as crust formation, seedling resistance, and limited soil aeration," says Gutschmidt.

The 56-ft. wide "Superharrow" sells for \$9,200. Other sizes are available.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Summers Mfg. Co., Inc., P.O. Box L, Maddock, N. Dak. 58348 (ph 701 438-2855).



Add-on, electro-hydraulic planter drive instantly changes plant populations on-the-go.

ADD-ON UNIT GIVES YOU COMPUTERIZED CONTROL OF EVERY ASPECT OF PLANTING

Planter Drive Provides "Space Age" Control

Changing plant populations on-the-go can now be as easy as turning a dial thanks to a new automated planter drive add-on system developed by Hydraulic Control Systems, Inc., Monticello, Iowa.

The system first appeared last season on Buffalo planters. It's now available for Deere, Kinze, White and Deutz planters. Combining electronics with a precision-built hydraulic drive unit, the device lets you control and monitor planting operations in a way not possible with any planter on the market.

Marty Richards invented the new control. "With a touch of fingertip you can change population on-the-go, reducing populations on hills and in sandy areas which dry out early and increasing plant populations in heavier soil areas for maximum profit. It's particularly useful on farms with differing soil types and on irrigated land where you might want to change populations in the corners," says Richards noting that the planter also provides constant readouts on ground speed, acres covered and has a long-term memory in case of power loss or interruption.

The planter drive fits planters with a common drive, mounting above the toolbar and taking its readings from a ground sensor mounted on a ground wheel mounted just ahead of the

toolbar. The drive offers more than enough power to run a fully equipped 24-row planter, eliminating the need to change sprockets and handle greasy chains.

A control box mounted in the cab coordinates all impulses from the ground sensing wheel and transmits them to the hydraulic drive. The hydraulic motor is specially-built to react instantly to any of the over 32 plant population settings that might be picked by the operator on the control box-mounted dial. At any time you can check the number of acres planted as well as ground speed, which is constantly monitored.

"One big advantage of installing this system on your planter is that it lets you run your planter for pre-season tuneups. Lets you check seed, fertilizer, herbicide and insecticide rates in a stationary position in your shop," says Richards.

The new drive system sells for \$3,300 when ordered as a retrofit to an existing planter. When fitted to a new planter that's ordered without a drive system, Richards says it adds about \$200 to the cost of the planter in most cases.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hydraulic Control Systems, Inc., Rt. 1, Monticello, Iowa 52310 (ph 319 465-4122).

Corn Cob "Brickmaker"

(Continued from cover page)

rials, too. The company is working on a larger machine that'll compress waste paper into large bricks and wrap them for burning," says Witrock.

He's selling corn cob bricks for use in home-burning stoves. The bricks sell for about the same price as good firewood — \$75 to \$100 for a 4 by 8-ft. "cord". He says cob bricks burn hotter than wood with little smoke

and almost no ashes.

Witrock expects production machines to retail in the U.S. for \$12,000 to \$15,000, depending on the strength of the dollar and shipping costs.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Earl Witrock, Rt. 3, Box 7, Carroll, Iowa 51401 (ph 712 792-2663).



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