

Home-Built Planters, Attachments

One-Pass Till Planter

An extra toolbar mounted on front of his Case-IH 900 6-row planter lets J. Stuart Simpson, Glencoe, Ontario, plant in heavy trash and apply liquid and dry fertilizer at the same time.

The add-on toolbar carries dry fertilizer hoppers and supports several no-till attachments. It can be hydraulically raised or lowered independent of the planter.

"It gives me almost unlimited fertilizer application combinations so that I can take care of all my fertilizer needs in one pass," says Simpson, who used the planter on 920 acres last spring.

Simpson bought the planter used. He replaced its worn out disc openers with new ones and extended the planter tongue 50 in. He mounted a pair of 210-gal. liquid fertilizer tanks on the planter. He used 7 by 7-in. sq. steel tubing to build the add-on toolbar up front and mounted a pair of dry fertilizer hoppers on top of it. He mounted Deere trash rippers on front, followed by three fluted 1-in. wide, 18-in. dia. Yetter coulters and a home-built 10-in. wide, 10-in. dia. rolling harrow that levels the seedbed just ahead of the row units. The coulters create a 7 to 8-in. wide tilled zone for each planter row unit.

"The add-on toolbar gives me the option of applying liquid or dry fertilizer in a band on the side of the row, or liquid pop-up fertilizer in the row," says Simpson. "The hoppers carry 1,800 to 2,200 lbs. of dry

fertilizer and the tanks carry 420 gal. of liquid fertilizer so I can plant up to 28 acres at a time without stopping. I spray herbicides after I'm done planting.

"I had thought about mounting no-till attachments on a conventional planter for years, but I wasn't sure that no-till would work on our soil types, which range from sand to loam. The hydraulically-operated, add-on toolbar lets me adjust coulters depth on-the-go according to soil types, without interfering with seed depth. I can set the coulters from 7 in. deep to 1 in. above the soil. The trash rippers are screw-adjustable. I use them less than 20% of the time.

"Applying fertilizer in a band cuts my fertilizer bill. I was prepared to take a yield decrease, but last year my yields were 1 1/2 bu./acre higher than they had been with a conventional planter."

Simpson mounted the toolbar 46 in. ahead of the planter. He added extra carrying wheels on the front toolbar which lift in series with the planter carrying wheels. A pair of hydraulic cylinders mount on the planter's tongue and are connected to four parallel arms that extend forward from the planter frame to the add-on toolbar.

Simpson spent \$24,000 (Canadian) to build the add-on toolbar and equip it with zone-till attachments.

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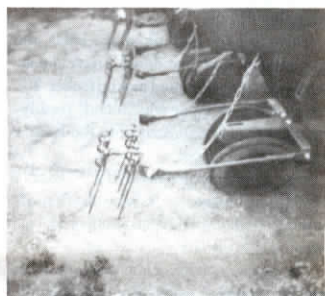
Add-on front toolbar carries dry fertilizer hoppers and no-till attachments.

"No Plug" Planter Harrow

"Most farmers have stopped using planter harrows on their Deere planters because they drag trash. This simple modification eliminates the problem," says John Craig, Shabbona, Ill., who spaced out the tines by adding a second bar behind the main one so trash will pass through.

He says the problem is that, as shipped from the factory, the tines are spaced only 1 1/2 to 2 in. apart. Now that most farmers are leaving more residue on the surface, trash builds up ahead of the teeth. Craig wanted to keep using the harrow because he likes the way they level the ground out behind the planter and he also uses them to incorporate herbicide which he sprays over the row just behind the closing wheels.

To solve the plugging problem, Craig simply removed every other tine and mounted them on a piece of angle iron positioned about 4 in. behind the front row of tines. The angle iron bar is held in place by two long threaded bolts.



Craig spaced out tines by adding a second bar behind the main one.

"It's simple but it works. Now they won't drag trash. The best thing about it is that you can pick up these planter harrows cheap because so many farmers stopped using them," says Craig.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John J. Craig, Rt. 1, University Rd., Shabbona, Ill. 60550 (ph 815 824-2024).

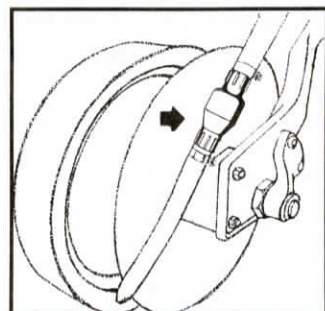
Valve Stops Liquid Fertilizer Drips

Liquid fertilizer won't drip out of hoses on your planter at the end of the field with this new valve installed between the hose and outlet tube, according to the manufacturer.

The 1 1/2 by 4-in. valve is equipped with a 1/2-lb. stainless steel spring that has an O-ring seat mounted on top of it. When you turn the sprayer pump on, the increased pressure inside the hose causes the spring to compress and the valve opens up. When you shut off the pump, the decreased pressure lets the spring expand, closing the valve.

"It keeps hoses full so your planter always applies a full rate of fertilizer," says Stewart Whitney, inventor. "The problem is that when you turn at the end of the field the fertilizer drips out. By the time you start planting again, hoses are empty, and you can go up to 30 ft. before the full rate is applied again. If our valve should ever fail, it would fail in the open position so you would be no worse off than if the valve had never been installed."

A hose barb screws into the top of the valve. You slide the hose over the barb and clamp it on. The bottom part of the valve has 1/2-in. threads which screw into the top of



Spring-loaded valve mounts between liquid fertilizer hose and outlet tube.

the fertilizer outlet tube. If the outlet tube has 1/4 or 3/8-in. threads, you can install a reducer bushing inside the valve.

Sells for \$12.95.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stewart Whitney, Whitney Valve, 10442 Linwood Rd., Pavilion, N.Y. 14525 (ph 800 724-1806 or 716 768-2194).



Brown used old Deere 51 and 61 planter row units to build this 15-row, 18-in. "skip row" soybean planter. He added three seed hopper extensions that double capacity.

Narrow Row Planter Has Hopper Extensions

Darrell Brown, Dayton, Texas, salvaged row units from old Deere 51 and 61 planters and mounted them between the units on his 8-row, 36-in. planter to turn it into a 15-row, 18-in. "skip row" soybean planter.

He also built three seed hopper extensions to double planter capacity from 17 to 34 bu.

"We wanted the yield benefits of narrow rows, but we wanted to use a planter instead of a drill because it has better depth control and we could cultivate if necessary by making skip rows. We found that we were also able to save \$3 per acre on crop insurance," says Darrell, who built the planter with the help of his brother Don. "The seed hopper extensions make it easy to use 1,500 lb. bulk bags of seed and allow us to plant twice as many acres without refilling."

Brown used sheet metal old bucket elevators to build the seed hopper extensions which simply mount across the top of the seed hoppers. He cut holes in the bottom of the sheet metal boxes, bending the metal tabs down inside the planter boxes to help hold the extensions in place. He also used rubber strips cut from old rubber inner tubes to hold the extensions down, tying hooks onto the ends of the rubber strips. Four rubber strips are used on each extension. The top of each extension is sloped to shed rain.

Brown increased plant population from 60 lbs. per acre on 36-in. rows to 90 lbs. per acre on 18-in. rows.

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