



Weeder has 5 bars fitted with offset tines that kill weeds through "gentle" cultivation.

Austrian-Built Tined Weeder Cuts Costs

Killing weeds with cultivation is catching on with organic and non-organic crop producers alike, thanks in part to the Einbock Tined Weeder.

"Organic growers use our tined weeder four to five times in a field during the season. They will cultivate once or twice before planting, again before weeds or crop have emerged, hit it again just before the crop emerges, and then once more after the crop is up," says Jim Tillman. "Conventional farmers also like to use it to incorporate pre-emerge herbicide."

He credits the growing popularity of the Austrian-made weeder to its craftsmanship and design. The five bars mounted with offset tines stir literally every inch of the soil surface across the width of the implement. The 50-ft. model requires only 90 hp to pull its 3,300 lbs., while the 10-ft., 350-lb. model requires only a 20 hp tractor.

Five different settings and gauge wheels let the operator determine how aggressive tillage should be. A light setting for final cultivation in standing crops covers weeds emerging in the rows, as well as between them, without damaging the deeper rooted crop.

"We've found the best weed kill comes at the cotyledon or white root stage. The tines knock them over and cover them lightly with soil," explains Tillman. "A hot, sunny day will fry them."

Tines can be ordered in several diameters, lengths and shapes, depending on eventual use. The 19-in. standard tine with a 27/100-in. diameter is also available in a 23-in. special culture design. A slightly larger 31/100-in. diameter tine is available in the 19-in. length in bent (standard) style for use in grasslands or in a straight design for rocky soils.

"Intensive grazing customers use the weeder to spread out cow manure and gopher mounds, dethatch grasses, and stir up the soil," explains Tillman. "Often they will



Offset tines stir every inch of the soil surface across width of implement.

make passes in two different directions and then overseed on a third pass."

Overseeding with the rig is easy by fitting it with the Pneumaticstar Airseeder. While models are designed to work with up to 40-ft. tined seeders, they can also be attached to other tillage tools. On larger models, the air pressure is provided by a pto-driven fan, while an electric fan services smaller models.

"We are seeing a growing interest in underseeding row crops with vetch or red clover then plowing it under for green manure after the crop has been harvested," says Tillman.

The weeders start at \$2,500 for a 5-ft. model. All models fold down to less than a 10-ft. transit width, and that includes even those with working widths of 60, 70 and 80 ft. Each machine is built to order with Tillman requiring 50 percent down and the remainder due on delivery. He says orders have a two-month lag time due to transit time from the factory in Austria.

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Triple-Wheel Combine

A North Dakota farmer was faced with some of the muddiest conditions he'd ever seen when he went to harvest his 2008 corn crop. In some places there was a foot of standing water in the fields.

He already had dual 20.8 by 42 wheels on his 2008 AGCO Gleaner R75 combine but he needed even more flotation. So he added one more wheel to each side.

"The triples let him get the crop off while doing a minimum of damage to fields," says Les Cabler, OK Tire Stores, Carrington, N. Dak. He had a local fabrication shop make the 39 1/2-in. long hub extensions used to add the extra wheels.

"He was able to go right through the standing water with no problem," says Cabler. "We charged \$3,800 for the extra extension hubs, tires and wheels. The only limitation is that it extends the combine's drive system a long ways, so you have to be careful when turn-



Triple wheels allowed a North Dakota farmer to get his crop off muddy fields with minimal damage.

ing," says Cabler

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Amazing New Sound-Proofing Material

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Walking through the recent International Builders Show in Las Vegas, I heard music blasting out at a high volume. Then it was gone. Again it blasted out and then went away.

Getting closer to the repeating sounds, I saw a speaker being covered and uncovered by a cylindrical shape made of thin black material.

The black layer was Acoustiblok, a mineral filled material called "viscoelastic polymer." Most soundproofing materials try to reduce noise by either blocking or absorbing the sound waves. Acoustiblok vibrates when the sound waves strike it, transforming the acoustical energy into inaudible friction energy. It works like lead, long considered the best soundproofing material. However, it contains neither lead nor asbestos.

At just 1/8 in. thick, the amazingly dense, yet flexible, material reduces as much sound as 12-in. of poured concrete. Multiple layers not only add to sound reduction, but also provide thermal insulation.

At \$2 to \$3 per square foot, the first-of-its-kind material isn't cheap. However, if sound is a concern, such as when a shop or work area is part of or attached to a house, it may be worth it.

Installation is easy. Acoustiblok can be nailed, stapled or glued in place. Simply cut lengths off a 54-in. wide roll with a box knife and spot-glue it to wood studs, ceiling joists, furring strips or to floors. Rolls come in 30,



Thin sound-proof material is stapled or glued in place.

60 and 350-ft. lengths. Once the Acoustiblok is in place, it can be covered by wallboard or other surfaces, even carpet.

The material is impervious to salt water, most oils and will not mildew or mold. It will not compress under carpet and acts as a moisture barrier and crack isolator.

Rob Ianelli, marketing manager, Acoustiblok, says the product can be ordered direct from the company

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Toolbox contains a metal tray that rolls out to both sides, allowing you to get at tools from either side of pickup.

"Slide-Out" Toolbox For Flatbed Pickups

"It brings your tools to you so you don't have to climb up into the truck to get to your tools," says Todd Haven, Haven Mfg., Smith Center, Kansas.

The toolbox is made from 14-ga. powder-coated tread plate and is designed to fit behind the pickup's headache rack. It measures 81 in. long by 21 in. deep by 17 in. high and contains a metal tray that rolls out 60 percent to both sides, allowing you to get at tools from either side of the truck. The bottom of the tray has diamond plate rubber mat flooring and rides on sealed bearing rollers. A 2-lb. fire extinguisher comes as standard equipment.

The tray can be equipped with a variety of optional tool organizers including bolt bins, dividers, half trays, and a hand tool organizer. A spare tire carrier is also available that bolts to the back side of the toolbox.

Each end of the toolbox is equipped with a swing-out door, and there's a recessed T-handle on each end of the tray. To open the toolbox, you grab the T-handle and twist it, then swing the door open and slide the tray out.

"It's really handy - the flatbed can be full

yet you can still get at your tools," says Haven. "With other toolboxes you have to crawl onto the back of the pickup and open the lid from the top in order to pull stuff out. The shelf bottom is one inch off the floor and is inset 1 1/2 in. on each end, so the tools in the box will never get wet even if the tray's side door seals wear out. There are 3 in. of space below the half tray, which is enough room for poles or posts, etc. And there's a triple lock system on each end of the tray for safety.

"Most flatbeds are 80 to 82 inches wide so it'll fit almost any pickup. If your flatbed is equipped with side rails, we offer a riser that raises the toolbox up over them."

The toolbox comes with mounting holes at each corner and requires drilling four holes in the flatbed. The toolbox comes in black only, but Haven says he plans to add other colors.

The basic toolbox and tray, not including the tool organizers, sells for \$899.

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