You can plant corn weeks earlier, harvest a month sooner, and get higher yields with the Samco planting system. Developed in Ireland, the system applies herbicide and plants the corn under 55-in. swaths under a specially designed, degradable plastic.

“We have a patented pinhole design that allows the plants to grow up under and eventually push their way through the plastic,” explains Samuel Shine, Samco Agricultural Manufacturing Ltd.

The plastic warms the ground faster to encourage emergence up to three weeks early while protecting seedlings from adverse weather. The same heat that encourages the corn to emerge quickly also flushes all the weed seeds while the herbicide is most active for more complete control.

“By planting earlier, they take advantage of late winter rains and reduce their need for irrigation,” says Shine.

Samco sells the patented design, degradable plastic in 30-kilo rolls. Each roll is priced at around $13,800, $45,700 and $61,000, not including shipping. The packages include the planter, herbicide tank, spray system and plastic laying system. The 16-ft. wide, 6-row planter folds to less than 10 ft.

“All packages come with a two-year warranty and a selection of spare parts when delivered,” says Shine.

Samco offers 2, 4 and 6-row packages, priced at around $13,800, $45,700 and $61,000, not including shipping. The packages include the planter, herbicide tank, spray system and plastic laying system. The 16-ft. wide, 6-row planter folds to less than 10 ft.

“With Robinson’s design, the operator backs into the bale with the spear, picks up the bale and carries it to the spot where unrolling is to begin. For smoothest unrolling, insert the spear in the clockwise end. Remove twine or netting with the bale off the ground. Release the swing arm, lower the 3-pt. arms, and drive forward to begin unrolling. As the bale edge hits the ground, it swings around into a diagonal position. If lowered fully, the bale swings around until one side is completely on the ground and unrolling flat.

Unrolling a big round bale couldn’t be easier with Peter Robinson’s Bale Handler. The Australian put his industrial design training to work when his 70-year old father needed a better way to feed round bales. “I wanted a 3-pt. mounted handler that included a bale spear,” recalls Robinson. “The key was designing the frame holding the spike to hold the bale at an angle.”

With Robinson’s design, the operator backs into the bale with the spear, picks up the bale and carries it to the spot where unrolling should begin. For smoothest unrolling, insert the spear in the clockwise end. Remove twine or netting with the bale off the ground. Release the swing arm, lower the 3-pt. arms, and drive forward to begin unrolling. As the bale edge hits the ground, it swings around into a diagonal position. If lowered fully, the bale swings around until one side is completely on the ground and unrolling flat.

“Angled” Bale Handler Makes Rollout A Snap

To stop unrolling, simply raise the bale off the ground and lower it again when you want to resume,” explains Robinson. “When the hay has unrolled completely, raise the handler, stop and reverse the tractor slowly as you slowly lower the bale handler again. The swing arm skids back into place, and the spear is again latched in pick-up position.”

Robinson has been selling his Bale Handler in Australia for nearly 25 years. Currently they retail for a little over $1,000 (U.S.). While Robinson has no plans to market his unroller in North America, he’s considering selling plans if there are requests.

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