

The "Pulldozer": A New Way To Level Fields, Dig Ditches

Move over graders and scrapers. The Pulldozer is leveling farmland across Western Canada, and construction companies and rural municipalities like the new option.

"Regular land scrapers pulled by tractors work well for moving dirt, but they are very heavy. It's hard to get a smooth finish," says Dale Kotzer, of Bridgeview Manufacturing in Gerald, Sask. "The Pulldozer has a big blade and levels the whole thing off."

It's not designed to move soil great distances. It's intended for short runs and drain cleanout, and leaving finished level ground in one pass.

That's important to large acre Canadian farmers who need to fill in potholes and level fields in the fall. Many farmers also appreciate the Pulldozer's optional trencher shank. With 42 in. of rain in many areas, fields were dotted with lakes and potholes threatening to prevent seeding.

"Farmers drove through the water this spring with the trencher mounted on the Pulldozer," Kotzer says. "It doesn't carry dirt, so it's not so heavy. In wet conditions, the operator can lift the blade, and with the

large tires it will roll out of the area without getting stuck."

The trenching was enough to drain fields for planting, and farmers continue to use the Pulldozer to clean up and level land affected by the wet conditions.

Besides leveling, the Pulldozer can be tilted to create new ditches or clean out existing ones. It can pull dirt over willows and cattails, cut down hills six times faster than a scraper, and remove/replace topsoil.

At 1,000 lb. for every foot of width, the Pulldozer is a "robust" piece of equipment that's rugged enough to pull out rocks and roots. Demand is good for its third year in production – by farmers who use it on their land and do road work for rural municipalities, to construction workers to oilfield businesses that reclaim oil drilling sites.

The Pulldozer comes in four models. An 18-ft. model weighs 18,000 lbs., drags up to 18 cubic yards, and sells for \$58,000. It requires a 250 to 375 hp tractor. The 24-ft. model weighs 24,000 lbs., drags up to 25 cubic yards, sells for \$68,000 and requires



The Pulldozer works great for filling in potholes and leveling fields. It can also be tilted to dig new ditches or clean out existing ones.

400 to 500 hp. Both models have the hydraulic retractable trencher option.

Kotzer notes that farmers can easily cross the 28-in. wide trenches the Pulldozer makes by farming on an angle. The tool is also equipped with universal brackets to mount laser or RTK controls.

Pulldozers have been shipped to the U.S. and Australia. The company is interested in setting up U.S. distributorships.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bridgeview Manufacturing, Box 4, Hwy 22, Gerald, Sask. S0A 1B0 Canada (ph 306 745-2711; www.bridgeviewmanufacturing.com).

Petal Tickler Helps Pollinate Greenhouse Tomatoes

Pollinate greenhouse tomatoes faster and easier with a Petal Tickler from Progressive Solutions. The lightweight unit has a tip that oscillates at 90 cycles per second, shaking loose pollen to ensure a better fruit set, larger fruit and fewer culls.

"Touch the tip to the stem where the blossom cluster is located and turn it on," says David Kline, Progressive Solutions. "When conditions are right, you can see a cloud of white pollen fly around it."

Kline developed the Petal Tickler for a brother who grows hydroponic tomatoes. At the time, the preferred powered hand pollinator was a Dutch unit. Kline's unit is lighter, simpler and easier to manufacture.

"A local machine shop helped us with the design," says Kline. "A few years ago we had injection molds made, and now my family

and I assemble them together ourselves."

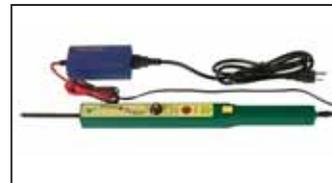
The rechargeable, cordless unit is designed to last for 6 hrs. but some customers say it lasts much longer.

The Petal Tickler is about 16 in. long with a 4-in. vibrating rod. The vibration is produced by a small DC motor with an offset bearing that converts rotary motion to linear.

"The length of the Petal Tickler makes it easier to reach the top blossoms later in the season," explains Kline.

The original Ultima Pollinator, with a 5-ft. cord that clips to a 6-volt battery, retails for \$185. The rechargeable Ultima CL is priced at \$245.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Progressive Solutions, 10580 County Road 329, Shreve, Ohio 44676 (ph 330 567-5937).



Powered hand pollinator uses a vibrating rod to shake pollen loose from blossom clusters. The rechargeable, cordless unit measures about 16 in. long.

Now Is The Time To Prevent Poison Ivy

If you want to eliminate or reduce the agony of a poison ivy infection next summer, now is the time to do something about it. It sounds too good to be true, but for 16 years Eric's Pharmacy in Shawnee, Okla., has offered a simple treatment that is very effective. Pharmacist and owner, Eric Winegardner uses an old German formulation to create a compound that includes a small amount of Rhus Toxicodendron (the base substance in poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac) and plant resin. It's sold in packs with three liquid vials. One vial is taken each week for 3 weeks, by holding the liquid in the mouth 30 seconds before swallowing.

"Basically it's like an oral vaccine," Winegardner says. It builds immunity against symptoms from the poison plants. He admits he was skeptical when he first got the formula from another pharmacist. Now, he notes, his customers would be very angry if he quit making the Homeopathic compound.

About 75 percent of his customers are local ranchers or businesses like gas and

power companies that buy the solution for their workers. The rest of the sales are made through the pharmacy's website (\$16.95).

"It has varying degrees of effectiveness. Just about everyone will respond to it. Most become immune, some still get a mild rash. For some it just doesn't work," Winegardner says. "But from our experience most people respond to it. It's changed a lot of people's lives."

There are very few side effects with the Homeopathic treatment. He's only heard of a few people who got a light rash. The crucial thing is to take the treatment during the winter, when poison ivy is dormant. The dose lasts about a year and is safe for young children as well. Winegardner adds that it's important to avoid using minty mouthwash prior to taking to the solution as it prevents absorption.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric's Poison Ivy Treatment, 3306 N. Kickapoo, Shawnee, Okla. 74804 (ph 405 275-9640; www.poisonivyprevention.com).

Electric Paint Roller Converted Into Wick Wiper

After reading about how Donald Bunch kills weeds by spraying Roundup out of a 1-gal spray bottle onto an ordinary handheld paint roller (Vol. 35, No. 5), Robert Witt of Summerdale, Ala., sent information about how he uses a Wagner electric paint roller to kill weeds.

Witt needed a way to wipe out weeds along his flowerbeds, gardens and walkways without the danger of spray drifting onto flowers and shrubs. He came up with an automated system that lets him kill weeds right from his riding mower.

He pulls a 22-gal. plastic tank, rigged up with an on-demand pump, behind his mower. A 3/8-in. dia. by 100-ft. long plastic hose runs out from the tank to a valve and brass wand from a 1-gal. hand pump sprayer. A length of 1/2-in. dia. plastic pipe runs down to the roller, with a couple of reducer adapters at each end of the pipe.

The Wagner paint sprayer came equipped with a hollow, curved metal rod that ran through a black plastic handle. The operator stuck the rod in a can of paint, and then the paint was pumped into the roller, exiting through a series of small holes inside the roller.

Witt simply glued the plastic hose to the handle of the roller. A 1/2-in. dia. wooden



Robert Witt converted an electric paint roller into this wick wiper, allowing him to kill weeds right from his riding mower.

dowel rod is clamped onto the plastic pipe for reinforcement.

"It's really easy to use. All I do is push the valve, and herbicide automatically gets pumped into the paint roller," says Witt. "The valve makes it easy to keep the roller wet. I run the roller on grass and weeds between my tomato and pepper plants and around pecan trees along fence rows. I've used it for 2 years and am still using the same paint roller pad."

"If I want I can attach a wand so I can use it as an ordinary handheld sprayer," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert A. Witt, 18801 Couch Plant Rd., Summerdale, Ala. 36580 (ph 251 989-6683).

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