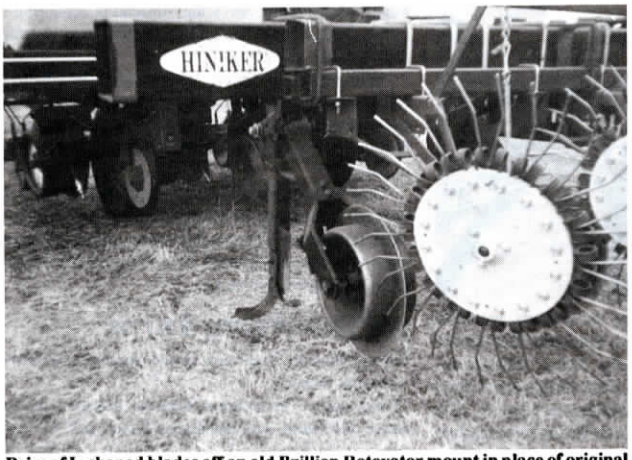


Pairs of L-shaped blades off an old Brillion Rotovator mount in place of original horizontal rotating disc sweeps on Hiniker 3-pt. ridge-till planter attachment.

"Rotovator Blades" Loosen Ground, Sweep Aside Trash Ahead Of Planter

When Chris Blonigan, Paynesville, Minn., switched from ridge till to no-till, he mounted pairs of L-shaped blades off an old Brillion Rotovator in place of the original horizontal rotating disc sweeps on his Hiniker 3-pt. ridge-till planter attachment, which mounts in front of his International 800 4-row, 30-in. planter.

Each pair of Rotovator blades creates an 8-in. wide cleared strip, loosening ground and killing weeds in the row.

"It works good and didn't cost much," says Blonigan. "I made the conversion two years after I switched to no-till because I still had hard ground that kept my corn and beans from getting a good start. I already had the Rotovator which was worn out. I ran one Rotovator blade per row for two years, then switched to two blades per row last year so I could clear a wider strip.

"The Hiniker rotating sweeps were designed to shave soil off the top of ridges without loosening the ground. However, I wanted to plant into loose soil. The Hiniker unit is equipped with depth coulters in front. I mounted a single row sweep wheel ahead of each depth coulter in order to help clear residue from the row.

"The rigid-mounted Rotovator blades bolt to a 1/2-in. thick steel plate that I welded to the bottom of the adjustable-depth bracket that originally held the horizontal ridge-clearing discs. I set the blades to dig about 4 in. deep by simply turning a crank. Each pair of blades is equipped with a small shear bolt for protection from rocks.

"I mount a 1-in. wide, narrow point Buffalo cultivator shank behind each of the planter's disc openers. I set the cultivator point very shallow to pull any remaining trash out of the way ahead of the seed drop tube.

"I also mounted pairs of row banders side by side behind each row at the back of the planter so I can broadcast corn and soybean herbicides. Each bander covers a 15-in. width on either side of the row."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chris Blonigan, 29862 Co. Rd. 177, Paynesville, Minn. 56362 (ph 612 548-3268).

Blonigan mounts pairs of row banders behind each row at back of planter.

FARM SHOW "Made It Myself"

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044)

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director

Pull-Behind Rake Creates Double Windrows

Last summer Craig Bielmaier, Wall, S. Dak., came up with a way to create double windrows behind his Massey Ferguson 880 swather.

He bolted a drawbar hitch to the back of the swather to pull a Farmhand side delivery rake. "As you make your passes back and forth across the field, the rake throws two 18-ft. swaths together side by side. It makes the perfect size swath for baling, cutting by half the time it takes us to bale," says Bielmaier, who used the rake-swather combination for the first time this past season.

"It worked well with no problems. The rake has adjustments on the transport wheels so you can adjust how far over you want to move the swath," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Craig Bielmaier, Box 104, Wall, S. Dak. 57790.

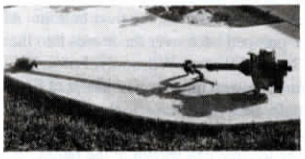
"Weed Eater" Outboard Motor

"It works as good as an electric trolling motor and didn't cost much to put together," says Terrell Webster, McAllen, Texas, who used parts from several old weed trimmers to make an outboard motor that he mounts on his 12-ft. "john" boat.

Webster used the straight shaft off a McCulloch weed trimmer and mounted the power head off a Ryan weed trimmer at one end and a Ryan cutterhead at the other. Then he attached a Minn-Kota propeller (designed for an electric trolling motor) to the cutterhead. He uses a C-clamp, that's bolted to the shaft with a pivoting bracket, to mount the motor on the boat. The makeshift outboard pivots up and down on the mounting bracket like an oar in an oarlock.

"The only part I bought was the propeller for $20. I removed the string head from the Ryan cutterhead and replaced it with the propeller by drilling out the propeller hub. I used a straight shaft instead of a curved shaft so the propeller would run straight. I control my speed by raising or lowering the propeller."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Terrell Webster, 6104 N. 31st St., McAllen, Texas 78504 (ph 210 687-4061).