

Self-Propelled Mini Sprayer For Greenhouses And High Tunnels

When Iva Manufacturing's customers started asking for a self-propelled sprayer to use in high tunnels and greenhouses, they built a couple of them. One is a completely self-propelled unit, and the other is powered by a BCS style walk-behind tractor. Both fit well with a company that makes sprayers as large as 1,000-gal., as well as horse-drawn and specialty produce and orchard sprayers.

"With more and more hoop houses going up for growing vegetables, we decided we needed to build a sprayer for them or someone else would," says Benuel Iva.

The self-propelled SP-50 has a 50-gal. capacity. A 22-ft. boom is standard. However, booms are usually custom ordered to match the grower's needs.

"We custom-build every sprayer to fit the greenhouse," says Iva. "It's easy to switch booms. Wings fasten with a single bolt, and the center section can be removed with 4 bolts."

The drive unit is a 13 hp. Honda with hydrostatic, single wheel drive. A single lever

controls forward, reverse and speed control with a maximum speed of 6 mph. The JB 9 gpm, 3-piston, diaphragm pump sprays at 280 psi.

The unique design of the SP-50, with its 60-in. length and 60-in. wheelbase left to right, resembles a motor scooter with a tall outrigger. It allows the operator, power unit, and tank to travel down one row space while the outrigger wheel travels down a neighboring row space.

"It has an 80-in. axle clearance, which allows it to straddle 72-in. tomato stakes," explains Iva. "A 96-in. winch raises and lowers the boom to match crop height."

The SP-50 is priced at \$9,750. The lower cost alternative for walk-behind tractor owners is the BCS Compatible Sprayer. It starts at \$3,500. Its 55-gal. spray tank feeds a Hypro XL 6 roller pump that can be driven off the pto. Options include a separate JB diaphragm engine pump drive. Both systems will produce 250 psi. An alternative 12-volt pump will provide 50 to 120 psi.



Self-propelled SP-50 sprayer comes with a 50-gal. tank and 22-ft. boom. It's powered by a 13 hp. Honda engine and has hydrostatic, single wheel drive.

Booms are available up to 20 ft. wide or 12 ft. to either side. The trailing sprayer has an adjustable hitch for use with most makes and models of walk-behinds. It includes a seat for the operator and can tow a 36 by 60-in. optional dump trailer. A winch-operated

90-in. boom lift kit is available for spraying sweet corn and other high crops.

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Folding 3-Pt. Toolbar Pulls Old Hay Rake On Slopes

Duane Johnson, Lohrville, Iowa, made an 11-ft. long, folding 3-pt. toolbar that lets him use an old Deere hay rake to rake hay on steep roadside ditches while keeping his tractor on the level.

The bar is made from 2 1/2-in. sq. tubing and attaches to a quick hitch. It's hinged on each side, so the wings can be raised or lowered by a pair of hydraulic cylinders.

"I came up with the idea so I could rake hay off the slopes of county ditches while driving on the shoulder of the road or in the bottom of the ditch," says Johnson. "I buy old steel-wheeled rakes cheap and fix them up for

roadside use instead of using a newer rake. Roadside ditches have many hazards that can be hard on rakes, and I'd rather break up an old rake I bought for \$100 than ruin a new one.

"It's inconvenient to have to re hitch all the time, but it greatly reduces the risk of a tractor rollover and is worth the extra time. I recently baled 75 round bales of brome grass ditch hay which makes great feed for my cows."

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Folding 3-pt. toolbar attaches to a quick hitch and is used to pull an old hay rake. It lets Duane Johnson rake hay on roadside ditches while keeping his tractor on the level.

"No Sweat" Corrugated Fiber Cement Panel Roofing

A unique new roofing product from Europe was on display at the recent Farm Fest show near Redwood Falls, Minn.

Cembrit, a Danish company with more than 80 years experience manufacturing high density fiber cement (HDFC) corrugated roofing sheets, is launching their unique roofing concept to the U.S. agricultural market. It's sold in 4 by 8-ft. sheets that overlap and are installed with self-tapping screws.

The HDFC sheets, known as Cemsix, are said to take advantage of the material's natural ability to wick moisture from the inside to the outside, improving the indoor environment for livestock and minimizing the humidity level inside the building. The material also absorbs sound so the barn stays quieter, and can't rust like steel corrugated roofing. In addition, the material's large 2-in. corrugations can handle heavier amounts of rain and snow.

"We haven't sold Cemsix to any farmers yet, but it has sold well for use on commercial buildings and we're confident that farmers will benefit from its advantages. We just need someone to be the first to try it," says Mark Heuchert, market development manager. "We think it's crazy that until now there has been only one roofing choice - galvanized metal - for farmers putting up livestock buildings.

"A lot of hog and dairy farmers with confinement barns have problems with the metal rusting due to condensation, or the building is too humid or too loud. You won't have those problems with Cemsix."



High density fiber cement corrugated roofing sheets wick moisture from inside buildings to the outside.

Because Cemsix eliminates condensation, it also eliminates the need for insulation, says Heuchert. "The material absorbs up to 15 percent of its weight in water, and as the water starts to get absorbed it immediately goes to the dry, top side where it evaporates. In effect it sucks water from inside to the top of the barn."

He says HDFC is comparable in cost to metal roofing with insulation. "However, the product weighs more per square foot so to support the extra weight you may have to add more trusses to the building."

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Cattle Curtain insecticide applicator covers more than 80 percent of the bodies of calves and full-grown cattle that pass through.

Rope Curtain Reduces Flies On Cattle

When one of his bulls took it as a personal challenge to destroy every insecticide applicator Steve Davis tried, the Amagon, Ark., farmer decided to make something better. Three years and a few prototypes later, his patent-pending Cattle Curtain insecticide applicator can be found on his farm and others in several states.

"I got the idea after seeing a rope wick applicator, so I had a guy build me a curtain with different ropes," Davis explains. After experimentation and testing, they came up with a design that covers more than 80 percent of the bodies of calves and full-grown cattle that pass through.

The 14.4-ft. long polypropylene ropes hang from a piece of pvc pipe that's filled with a blend of insecticide and oil. "The oil stays in the ropes well. It applies a thin layer all over (the cattle)," Davis says.

The cattle get used to the curtains quickly

and walk through the ropes with their heads up to get a thorough coating.

Davis recommends installing the curtain, which weighs less than 50 lbs. when filled with 3 gal. of diluted insecticide, on a crossbar over a gate where cattle go to drink or lick mineral blocks.

Davis recommends customers use oil-based insecticides that work best in their region. He's seen a big difference in the reduced number of flies on his herd in northeast Arkansas.

At \$179, plus shipping, the Cattle Curtain is built durable to last. It's an insecticide applicator that even his orneriest bull hasn't been able to destroy.

Davis welcomes dealer requests.

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