



Front-mount Stalk Smasher has a 5-in. square toolbar and uses a hydraulic cylinder with 14-in. lift for ground clearance for the smasher bars that protect tires from field debris.

Stalk Smashers Save Tractor Tires

By Lydia Noyes, Contributing Editor

The Stalk Smasher is a front-mount tractor attachment that saves tires from damage by crop residue. Hybrid corn stalks are notoriously stiff and can take field equipment out of commission. The Stalk Smasher solves this problem with heavy-duty rollers that flatten stalks ahead of the tractor to prevent them from piercing tires.

Designed by Ringsted Welding and Fabrication of Northwest Iowa, the Smasher's bars are free-floating, with dimensions designed to cover tracks and duals. They're controlled by a 3-in. hydraulic cylinder that gives a full 14-in. lift for ground clearance. The included four heavy-duty greaseable pins allow the bars to move across rough terrain without issue. The entire device has a gloss black powder coat finish.

Installation and adjustment are easy, thanks to a hydraulic system that works without the hassle of replacing springs, load devices or poly. It comes with a 5-in. square toolbar and a 3 1/2-in. dia. solid steel shaft. It's also possible to transfer the Smasher to different tractors with proper mounting brackets.

The Stalk Smasher comes with an installation kit for bolting it on your tractor's mounting bracket, complete with a 5-in. by

5-in. toolbar, smasher bars, and pivots. No drilling or welding is necessary.

These installation kits are currently available for most current models of Deere, Case-IH, New Holland, Caterpillar and Versatile tractors, with new kits under development. It's also possible to order the roller with or without poly to help prevent trash buildup while in use. Call the company to learn whether your tractor is compatible.

Updated pricing for 2022 has the Stalk Smasher roller unit at \$6,395 and the solid unit at \$5,895. The price includes mounting brackets, mounting hardware, and a cylinder but doesn't include hoses, fittings or shipping.

For those who need extra coverage, it's possible to purchase roller weldments from the pins down. Both the 56-in. (priced at \$2,950) and the 72-in. attachment (\$3,150) can be used with the existing Stalk Smasher in the place of the 3 1/2-in. solid smasher arms.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ringsted Welding and Fabrication, 705 E. 240th Street, Ringsted, Iowa 50578 (ph 712-866-1693; ringstedwf@ringtelco.com, www.stalksmasher.com).

They Make Bulk Seed Handling Easier

"We farm ourselves, so we designed our bulk seed handling products to make operations run more smoothly, saving time and money," says Bulk Seed System's representative Jeff Schoer.

The Pro-Chute is a plastic chute made with metal brackets, handle and slide gate designed for easy attachment to bulk center flow gravity boxes. Each makes it faster and easier to empty seed boxes directly into a planter or seed tender.

"Our Pro-Chutes attach in under 5 seconds and extend out 22 in. in front of the box, ensuring that the user never stands under a raised box.

The main components of Pro-Chute I and Pro-Chute II are similar, though the wider frame of model II makes it possible to empty seed boxes in 2 min. instead of 4 min. Both are priced at \$475. Metal extensions are also available that are compatible with both models: the 18-in. extension costs \$75, the 36-in. extension is \$100.

Each Pro-Chute is designed to work with the Seed Slide, a wireless gate box gate opener available for \$800. This tool makes it possible to push a button to open heavy seed boxes instead of climbing up on equipment to access them.

Each Seed Slide comes equipped with long-lasting rechargeable batteries and can operate from up to 150 ft. away. Best of all,



Pro-Chute makes it faster and easier to empty seed boxes directly into a planter or seed tender.

the unit weighs in at only 13 lbs. and is easy to maneuver.

Both the Seed Slide and Pro-Chute are available for purchase directly from the company. They're also looking for dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bulk Seed Systems, Inc., 20561 Justice Ave. Wabasso, Minn. 56293 (ph 507-342-2222; sales@bulkseedssystems.com; www.bulkseedssystems.com).



Blades are made from Sk-51 high-strength steel, which requires minimal sharpening over time.

Trimmer Cuts Brush Up To 3-In. Dia.

The Tri-Clone Trimmer head is a weed eater attachment that can make short work of any brush clearing task. It's compatible with most trimmers and weed eaters and will cut through grass, bushes and trees up to 3-in. dia.

According to manufacturer Ballard Inc., the Tri-Clone Trimmer head fits most straight shaft, counter-clockwise running trimmers. This includes both gas and electric models.

The attachment's three curved blades mean there's no string to manage, eliminating the hassle of dealing with broken line or string that's prone to tangling and getting wrapped around stubborn weeds. The blades are made from Sk-51 high-strength steel, which requires minimal sharpening over time.

Weighing just 1.2 lbs., the tool adds minimal weight to your trimmer and is versatile enough to maneuver throughout cumbersome landscapes for quick brush removal. The attachment itself is designed to sit on the ground for easy operation.

Each trimmer head comes with a reverse locking nut for installation (choose 1.00 mm for Stihl, 1.25 mm for Echo, Husqvarna and all other brands). Echo trimmers may require a steel plate adapter, and Shindaiwa trimmers will need a blade adapter kit. The attachment should take fewer than five minutes to install with the right tools.

Customer reviews indicate the trimmer head is well-suited for heavy-duty work, especially clearing overgrown patches of land. Many found that the tool cut down branches as wide as paper towel rolls and could handle contact with the occasional rock without issue.

You can purchase the trimmer head from most major retailers as well as the company website for \$64.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ballard Inc. 6990 N.E. 14th Street Suite 3E, Ankeny, Iowa 50023 (ph 877-965-0951; www.ballard-inc.com).

Tomato Stakes Make For Easy Harvesting

FARM SHOW contributor Tony Bunniss' homemade tomato cages are made from fencing and used plastic bags.

Bunniss has a large garden and needed a better way to keep his plants in order. "One year, I had 60 tomato plants and sold tomatoes by the bushel," he explains. "I grew tired of trying to pick tomatoes through those wire cages that most people use. So, I designed my own."

Bunniss' solution involved a 4-ft. steel fence post, a 4-ft. piece of wood lath cut into three equal pieces, and a 16-in. section of 2 by 4-in. wire fencing. Everything is held together by twisting wire around the laths and post, then stapling the fencing to the ends of the laths.

At first, he used a wood post but found that steel posts worked better over time. They lasted longer and weren't damaged when pounded into the ground through compact soil.

To secure the plants, Bunniss strings together two to three plastic shopping bags looped together at the handles. This plastic "rope" is gentle on plants and prevents broken stems, as is common with standard wire cages. For larger plants, he adds another bag to the chain by tying it to the end with the others.

Now, even when plants grow through the fencing, Bunniss doesn't have to stick his hands through to harvest them. "I only have to pick the tomatoes from one side. No more sticking my hands through the wire cage. That's always very irritating with



Tomato stakes made from fence post, wood laths and a section of fencing work well over time compared to traditional cages.

small, tightly packed varieties like cherry tomatoes."

Costs for this garden setup are minimal. Bunniss has used it seasonally for six years and has only made minor modifications over that time. "Some of the laths need replacing now because I didn't put any finish on them, on purpose," he explains. "I didn't want it to leach into the plants."

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