

New "Weed Wipers" You Can Buy Or Build



Carpet strips (2 ft. long, 1 ft. wide) are "stuffed" 6 in. into pipe groove, with 6 in. of carpet left on outside of pipe.

\$50 Carpet Applicator

"Works great and is a lot easier, simpler and cheaper to build than rope-type wick applicators," says Ross Yocum, Cable, Ohio, who rigged up a home-built carpet-wick applicator. Neighboring farmers who saw it operate built similar applicators in their farm shops — most of them for a total cost of \$50 or less for materials.

Yocum bought 3-in. dia. plastic pipe (180 in. long to cover six 30-in. rows) and used his power saw to cut a groove the entire length of the pipe. He bought carpet from a local store, cutting it into strips 2 ft. long and 1 ft. wide. He stuffed 6 in. of each strip into the groove and left the remaining

6 in. hanging out, then sealed the groove with glue. The carpet strips are positioned so the threads point toward the ground so they wick better in moving liquid from inside the pipe and through the carpet.

Yocum filled the pipe with a 3 to 1 mixture of water and Roundup and went over soybean fields once or twice — twice in places where Johnson grass was thick. He went once in each direction to wipe weeds in problem spots from both sides and thus help insure a better kill. Rate of travel was right at 5 to 6 mph.

Ned McGilb, Urbana, Ohio, teamed up with a neighbor to build a carpet-wick applicator similar to Yocum's. "I was building a rope wick applicator but stopped in the middle of the project when I heard about this simpler carpet wick idea. We paid \$27 for the pipe and carpet remnants. All the rest was salvaged material," McGilb told FARM SHOW.

He filled the pipe with a 3 to 1 mixture of water to Roundup, waited 20 minutes after filling for the liquid to move into the carpet, then went to the field. "We put the front-mounted applicator on a hydraulic cylinder so we could raise and lower it, depending on height of the crop. We went over 400 acres and had excellent results. We used rubber cement manufactured by 3M Company, which you can buy at most any auto supply store, to seal the carpet on both sides of the groove to the tube. You can travel about as fast as you want to ride on your tractor. There are no moving parts and nothing to wear out except for the carpet which shows hardly any wear after one season's use. Just be careful where you park in the yard when you stop for lunch. Liquid will drip to the ground and kill all of the grass underneath," he told FARM SHOW.

Rope-Wick Applicator For Your Cultivator

You can save time and fuel with a new rope-wick applicator from Kirkman Mfg., Kirkman, Iowa, that mounts on your row crop cultivator, allowing you to apply herbicide to tall growing weeds as you cultivate.

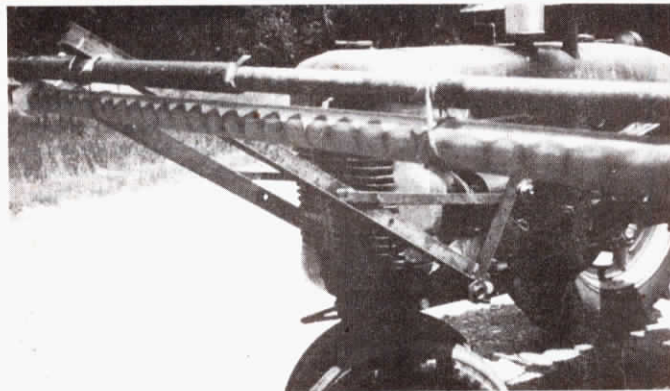
"You eliminate the need to make a special trip over the field to wipe out volunteer corn and other tall growing weeds. Our applicator is also less expensive than rope wick applicators that require a special toolbar," explains Jerry Holloway, vice president.

Mounting brackets are available for both front and rear mount cultivators. Individual applicator sections for each row are 18 in. wide, 3 in. in dia., and each is equipped with 5 rope sections about 6 in. long. The five ropes are positioned two in front, two in back and one in the middle — an arrangement which allows most weeds to be hit by at least 3 of the 5 ropes for good coverage of chemical

and good assurance of a complete kill. Mounting brackets are adjustable in 1 in. increments, allowing each applicator to be raised as high as the toolbar itself.

"We use a medium rope for most applications. However, if a farmer has a field with an extremely bad weed problem, we can supply an extra heavy rope which allows more spray material to move through it. However, the heavier rope also poses some dripping problems. Consequently, we don't recommend it except where there's an unusually heavy weed problem. We can supply sections with the heavy rope already installed, or a farmer who buys a section equipped with medium rope can install heavy rope himself."

Holloway notes that dust hasn't been a problem, even with the applicators mounted low to the ground for cultivation of newly-emerged corn, soybeans or other row



Special canvas is tightly wrapped and glued around entire circumference of the horizontal pipe.

Speidel Applicator

One of the simplest and least-cost applicators we've seen for "wiping" voluntary corn and other tall-growing weeds with Roundup is the Speidel herbicide applicator. It's a self-contained "wiping" pipe with no attached tanks, hoses, pumps or ropes.

"I did a lot of experimenting to get a consistent and controllable wetness on the canvas," says Steve Speidel, inventor-manufacturer. "I tried 12 different canvases, all of which looked the same, yet each varied considerably in their ability to allow liquid to soak through. It also took a lot of experimenting to come up with the right size and number of holes in the pipe, the right glue and a way to tightly wrap the canvas around the pipe."

The special canvas is glued around the entire circumference of the plastic pipe which serves as the applicator boom. Speidel sells only the canvas-wrapped herbicide applicator boom. "I feel farmers can easily rig up the necessary framing hardware to carry the applicator on either the front or rear of their tractor, or on their tractor loader. There should be some means, however, to move the applicator up and down while moving through the crop. I've used it both as a front and rear model unit, but prefer front mounting. With rear mounting, the rear wheel, and sometimes the drawbar, occasionally

knocks weeds over before the applicator has a chance to wipe them," Speidel points out.

He offers models in 1½ or 2 in. dia. pipe, and in one piece (with a center gate valve baffle) or in two separate pieces.

Suppose for example, you want to cover a 21 ft. width. You can order a one-piece unit 21 ft. long, which has the gate valve baffle in the center. Retail price of this one piece unit 21 ft. long is \$223 for the 2 in. dia., and \$213 for the 1½ in. dia.

Or, you can order two separate 10½ ft. sections to cover the desired 21 ft. width. The two sections are separate and completely unattached with no gate valve in between. Cost of the two sections is slightly less (about 5%) since you eliminate the cost of the center gate valve baffle which is required in the one piece unit.

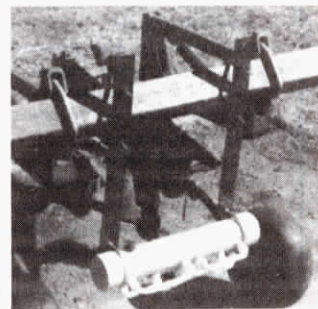
"About the only difference between a one and a two piece section is that the two piece sections are a little easier to handle since you are dealing with less length. The difference in diameter is mainly that you can operate a full day with the 2 in. dia. pipe, and about a half day with the 1½ in. dia. pipe," Speidel explains.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Speidel Applicator, Steve Speidel, President, Route 3, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506 (ph 402 423-4003).

crops. "There usually is enough moisture to minimize dust problems. If it is dry and enough dust is kicked up to cause problems, it may be necessary to carry a portable sprayer filled with water to rinse off each applicator periodically. However, in our field trials last year, we had virtually no problems with dust in first, second or third cultivations."

Retail cost, including mounting brackets and an 18-in. rope wick applicator bar, is right at \$60 per row.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kirkman Mfg., Box 27, Kirkman, Iowa 51447 (ph 712 766-3268).



Each applicator has five 6 in. long rope sections, with two in front, two in back and one in middle.