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Weed wipers get an upgrade

» MARK DANIEL

markd@ruralnews.co.nz

ROTOWIPER MANUFACTURES a wide range of weed wipers -- from 1.8 to 12m in several configurations.

And the company can custom manufacture to suit specific needs, e.g. a 500mm wide unit for use under grapevines. Formats include linkage mounted (LMU), fold-up (FU) and trailed (TR) versions.

Working based on a spray line and mounted above a reverse-rotating, carpeted roller, a sprayer moistens the roller with herbicide which then 'wipes' targeted weeds. This targeting incurs none of the costs of traditional blanket spraying with its risk to an existing crop.

With a strong focus on R&D, Rotowiper recently released its new TR series to replace the well-known WCF range. The TR range comprises five key models -- TR18 (1.8m), TR24 (2.4m), TR28 (2.8), TR32 (3.2M) and TR45 (4.5m).

Functionality is a key feature -- a single, ratchet height adjuster and a spring-loaded roller drive engage-



Rotowiper produces a range of machines from widths of 1.8 to 12m and in several configurations.

ment system help speed up the transition from transport to work.

The former will also ensure that the working height is set correctly, allowing maximum contact with weed plants without damaging the crop beneath.

Tank levelling is also in the new design to allow the reservoir to be kept level when working at different heights or when fitted to different towing vehicles. Also, storage and ease of transport

are addressed with the fitment of fold-up drawbars on all models.

Greater durability is addressed by a double frame to handle tough, high-country conditions, and strong RHS single wheel legs and solid stub axles fitted with high-speed wheel bearings.

Purchasers are offered the option of a high-quality paint or zinc finish to the frame; the latter prevents cor-

rosion and extends the working life of the unit.

For operators looking to cover large areas, the new 12m heavy-duty trailed model should be welcome. This comprises a single 2m central unit and four 2.5m outer sections that are driven hydraulically. The unit also has hydraulically adjustable depth control legs.

A heavy-duty frame carries a spray tank of 400L, said to cover 20 - 40ha

per fill; its transport width is just 3.1m.

Control of this high output machine is via one control box overseeing the individual 7.6L/min pumps fitted to each roller assembly, with fully automatic control or manual control for the whole unit or individual sections.

A second control box looks after transport and depth control wheels and the hydraulic folding function.

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25 YEARS OF SELECTIVE SEEDING

AFTER 25 years in electrical seed metering, Kverneland claims more knowledge in electric drive systems than any other precision seeding company.

Early designs stemmed from the development of the Unicorn Synchro Drive, first seen in 1993 and now evolved into the company's e-drive II that we see today. Other introductions have been section control and greater computing power, that ultimately led to KV's Geoseed technology.

Geoseed is a patented control system that allows seeds to be placed either in parallel rows or alternately spaced between the rows. In the latter format, a diamond pattern is created, said to offer better uptake of nutrients, light and water.

When used with the company's Geocontrol software, such precise

planting can also help reduce seed rates and eliminate overlaps that lead to densely cropped areas.

Electric drive remains front of Kverneland's precision seeder ranges. It is used in the Optima and Monopill ranges aimed at maize and beet growers.

Interestingly, the capability of the precision seed placement offered by these systems is also being exploited by farmers and growers who plant 'amazing mazes' to make more money.

To complete the picture, all KV precision seeders can work in combination with the ISOBUS compatible iXtra LiFe front tanks and liquid fertiliser applications.

The company also offers two of its own universal ISOBUS terminals for use with its own or any other ISOBUS compatible machinery. - *Mark Daniel*