



Twin-row beans have fewer problems with white mold and are less likely to lodge.

They're Sold On Twin-Row Soybeans

"I could go on for hours about what we've learned," says Dave Roggenbuck who, along with his father Vincent, brother Paul and brother-in-law Jeff, have been growing twin-rowed soybeans for six or seven years.

"The high population varieties we like to plant at 150,000 to 200,000 seeds per acre didn't produce well in 30 in. rows because of overcrowding, while solid-seeded beans developed white mold. Our 15-in. rowed beans fell somewhere between," says Dave Roggenbuck.

Twin-rowed beans don't develop serious white mold problems like solid-seeded beans because of the 22 1/2-in. spacings between pairs of rows, the Snover, Mich., farmers note. Likewise, because the twinned rows support each other, they don't lodge in bad years like beans planted in 30-in. rows, they add.

Best of all, twin rows yield 3 to 5 bu. per acre better than 30-in. rowed beans, the same yield advantage produced by drilling soybeans.

To plant the twin rows 7 1/2 in. apart on 30-in. centers, the Roggenbucks built their own 12-row planter. It's equipped with two United Farm Tools (UFT) grain drill double disk openers per row.

Fire Escape Pole For 2-Story Homes

"Our new telescoping fire escape pole for 2-story houses allows both adults and kids to escape quickly and with little effort," says Brad Moore, SafEscape, Inc., Centralia, Wash.

Made from powder-coated aluminum, the 17-ft. long telescoping pole collapses to 44 in. and is designed to be stored horizontally on a bracket under the roof outside a second story window. A trip cable attaches to the bracket. When you need to use the pole you open the window and pull on the cable, which trips the pole out of the bracket and allows it to swing down and telescope out to its full length. Then you climb onto the window sill, wrap your arms and legs around the pole, and slide down to the ground.

"It takes less than 2 lbs. of pull to drop the pole down so even kids can use it," says Moore. "The pole is positioned about 12 in. from the window so you don't have to worry that you'll miss it and fall. The larger, heavier end section is at the bottom of the pole so it drops fast. Grabbing the small end first allows even a child to get a firm grip on it. As you descend, the pole gets larger which naturally slows you down. It works much better than rope and chain ladders

Before planting, the Roggenbucks strip-till a clean 10-in. strip over each row using a Row-Tech Trans-Till toolbar which they invented. It combines what they feel are the best features of conventional and no-till planting equipment (Vol. 18, No. 4). They also typically inject 6 gpa of 10-34-0 at a depth of about 6 1/2 in. below where seed will be placed.

"In bad years, twin row beans really shine, yielding as much as 10 bu. per acre higher than 30-in. rowed beans.

"Some of that's attributable to variety, Group 0 to Mid-Group 2's, some to reduced lodging, and some to the fertilizer we put down before planting and the warmer seed-bed produced by Trans-Till," Dave says.

Twin rows provide more room to spray than solid-seeded or 15-in. rowed beans, he notes.

"As for harvesting, twin rows clip and feed nicely through our TR-97 New Holland combine equipped with Crary air reel. Plus, there's better visibility between rows than there is with solid-seeded or 15-in. beans," Dave adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Roggenbuck, 645 North Germania Rd., Snover, Mich. 48472 (ph 810 672-9383).

which are cumbersome and have to be stored under a bed or inside a closet where they can be hard to find.

"The pole is secured to the header by four lag bolts."

Sells for \$199 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SafEscape, Inc., 3713 North Park Drive, Centralia, Wash. 98531 (ph 888 723-3948; fax 360 736-7736).

Telescoping pole drops quickly to the ground when needed. It stores on bracket under eave.



Bale "Ventilator" Drills Holes In Bales

"If you punch a hole through a bale with a spear, all you're doing is bending the stems back. The hole soon fills back up. The solution is to drill a hole that will stay open," says Velere Strommer, who has designed and built a baler-mounted "ventilator" that drills a 2 1/2 in. dia. hole through bales as they're formed.

Strommer and his partner, Harold Winston, have worked on the new-style bale aerator for nearly 8 years. It consists of two parts - a 7 1/2-in. long, 2 1/2-in. dia. hardened steel bit that mounts on the bale plunger, and an inner auger that pulls the cut hay out of the hole. The components are driven by orbit motors powered by tractor hydraulics.

The first prototype is mounted on a Hesston mid-size square baler. "The probe turns clockwise, while the auger turns counterclockwise to remove the cut hay, which is dropped back into the hay chamber and baled," says Strommer.

Commercial hay producer Jim Bye, who raises 1,700 acres of hay near Gayeville, S. Dak., tested the device successfully last summer on a Case 8575 baler. "You could actually feel the heat come out of the hole," says Bye, who used it successfully on 1,100 32 by 32 by 88-in. bales.

The aerator can be adapted to any mid-size baler and can be easily removed when not needed. Strommer and Winston hope to fit it to other size balers as well. It will



"Ventilator" cuts hole through bale while inner auger pulls hay out of hole.



The 2 1/2-in. dia. hole remains open and allows aeration of the hay.

be tested this summer at the University of Wisconsin.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Velere Strommer, Quality Hay of Iowa, 1860 Hwy. 69, Klemme, Iowa 50449 (ph 515 587-2287).

Solar-Powered Fly Zappers

You've never seen anything like the solar-powered fly zappers built by Ohio inventor Earle Olson.

The "Dungeon of Doom" uses electric current supplied by a solar panel to kill flies. Flies are attracted to the white color of the trap, which fires off a killing blast of electrical current every 1 1/2 seconds. The current is strong enough to kill flies but won't harm birds or other small animals. The trap does not attract beneficial insects.

It has been proven effective in controlling flies at USDA's Beltsville (Md.) Research Station.

The "Dungeon of Doom" is 14 1/2 in. sq. by 16 in. tall. A second solar-powered trap, called "The Tower of Doom", is 35 in. tall and 26 in. at the base.

They sell for \$209.95 and \$499.95 plus \$14.95 and \$16.95 S&H, respectively.

Olson Products also manufactures many



"Dungeon of Doom" kills flies with current supplied by a solar panel.

other insect control products, including sticky fly traps and biting insect traps.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Olson Products Inc., P.O. Box 1043, Medina, Ohio 44258 (ph 330 723-3210; fax 9977).

Giant Stump Burner Solves Tough Problem

Digging out big tree stumps is ordinarily a job for a bull dozer or an expensive stump grinder. Illinois farmer Sam Ellis came up with a relatively easy and inexpensive way to get rid of his big stumps. He burns them out.

Ellis made a giant stump burner out of an old fuel barrel. He cut out the bottom and installed a flue in the top. He lights a fire on the stump and then sets the burner in place over the stump. The tank fits loosely enough over the stump that air is drawn in from all around the base of the tank, feeding the fire. In a day or two, the stump is burned down to a hole in the ground. You can cut a hole in the side of the tank in order to feed in fuel, if necessary.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sam



Stump burner is made out of fuel barrel with a flue on top.

Ellis, Rt. 2, Box 72, Chrisman, Ill. 61924 (ph 217 666-3474).