

Legume cover crop cuts

no-till corn costs

CHICAGO — Farmers who will be planting a crop into last year's set-aside land should plan ahead for effective, yet low cost weed control, says Dr. Ellery Knake, University of Illinois Extension weed scientist.

"Alfalfa, clover or other forage legumes on set-aside acreage can compete with undesirable weeds, add nitrogen and help prevent erosion," he adds. "A legume cover crop also sets the stage extremely well for no-till corn."

Dr. Knake says one of the keys for a low-cost no-till program is to seed only legume but no grass. Including grass can significantly raise the cost of herbicides needed to control the cover crop. "The easiest way to control grass is not to seed it," he says.

Dr. Knake recommends planting red clover—either mammoth or medium—or alfalfa. Oats or wheat might be used as a companion crop if it is to be clipped to prevent seed production. As an alternative to the companion crop, he suggests incorporating 1½ pints per acre of Treflan.

To "burn down" the clover sod for no-till corn, Dr. Knake says a combination of 1½ to 2 pounds each of atrazine and Bladex, has provided good control of the legume while also giving residual weed control. Addition of Banvel herbicide can strengthen control, especially if some perennial or certain winter annual weeds are present.

While this combination can provide a low-cost program and may be adequate, addition of Lasso or Dual may strengthen control of annual grass weeds. A higher rate of Bladex is also a possibility. An early postemergence application of Banvel herbicides can serve as a touch up for legume escapes or broadleaf weeds.

Dr. Knake notes that while the triazines have been effective on shallow-rooted clovers, they are not adequate for deep-rooted alfalfa. For alfalfa, or as an alternative for control of clover, Dr. Knake suggests growers consider a split application of Banvel herbicide. Research

User's report on Dyna-Drive tillage tool

MENDOTA, IL. — When Hart-Carter Company introduced Dyna-Drive early in 1985 and said, "It was one of the most unique tillage tools available today," most listeners responded with, "So what else is new?"

However, a significant number of farmers throughout the country attended demonstrations or

results have been quite good using ½ pint of Banvel before planting, followed by 1 pint early postemergence, when corn is spike-to-5 inches tall. One pint prior to planting, followed by ½ pint early postemergence has also been effective, he notes.

In addition to controlling the legume, he says the postemergence application of Banvel will help control existing annual and perennial broadleaf weeds until the corn canopies. The pint can also provide some soil residual activity to extend control. Dr. Knake says mulch from the legume can also aid in controlling weeds, and cultivation is not generally needed.

Banvel is also now labeled for fall application to control legumes prior to planting no-till soybeans in the spring. Dr. Knake says 1 pint of Banvel, applied in fall when clover is still actively growing, should be adequate.

listened to their dealers and bought a Dyna-Drive. Their major response was, "I can't believe it did such an outstanding job in just one pass." Hart-Carter Company has published a "Dyna-Drive User's Report" which contains interviews with growers from a cross section of the country using Dyna-Drive for a variety of crops.

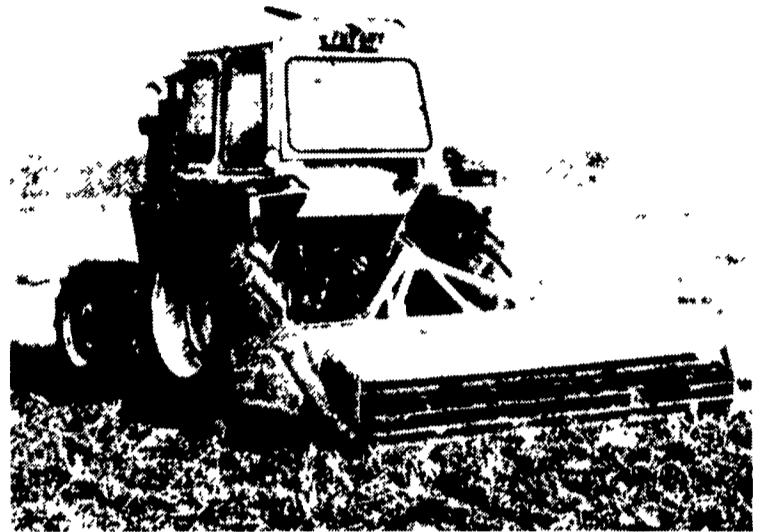
Dyna-Drive is a ground driven (no PTO or gear box) tillage tool that utilizes twin rotors with paddle-shaped tines in a spiral pattern spaced every 4½" with ground contact every 2¼".

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one-half ground speed which provides a lifting, soil fracturing action. The rear tires rotate three times faster breaking up clods and leaving an ideal well-drained, weather protected seedbed.

The close-following tillage tool, operating at speeds up to 10 m.p.h., should lower fuel costs and mean less strain on tractor. Depending on soil conditions, one-pass tillage is very possible.

This report plus literature is available free from Dyna-Drive dealers or by writing Hart-Carter Company, 1501 1st Ave., Mendota, IL 61342 or phone 815/539-9371.



Hart-Carter Co. has issued a user's report on the new Dyna-Drive tillage tool, introduced last year.

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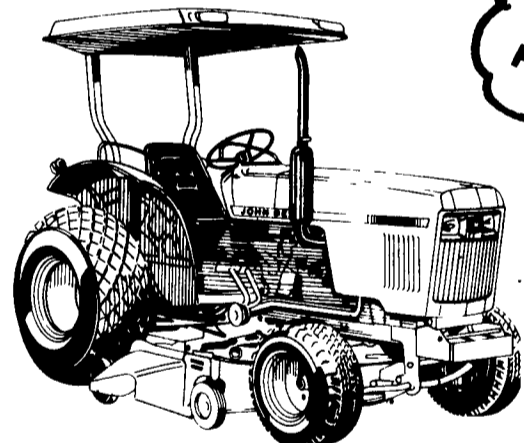
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