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CHIPS

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LIMPOPO-KULTIVARPROEWE ONDER BESPROEIING IN 2023: DENDRON EN TOM BURKE

INSIDE: 2024 BAYER SEED POTATO GROWER FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Overview of world potato markets | Water quality concerns and contingencies | Unleashing the potential of potatoes: Marketing

A new generation of Grimme haulm toppers

Grimme introduces the Toppa series, a new generation of haulm toppers available in various working widths and with notable features like low power consumption, redesigned housing and increased suction power.

Solo operation

The Toppa 200 and 400 are two-row and four-row haulm toppers, respectively, suitable for front and rear attachments. By optimising the gearbox position, the angle of the power take-off (PTO) shaft to the tractor has been flattened. This reduces wear on the PTO shafts, especially when lifting the haulm topper at the headland.

The four-row machine is equipped with a continuous flail shaft. Large maintenance flaps across the width of the housing make it easier to clean and change the flails.

The six-row front-rear combination includes the Toppa 200 attached to the front of the tractor and a Toppa 600 Combi at the rear. The Toppa 600 Combi can be hydraulically folded. For efficient field-to-field transitions, it can be hydraulically folded to a transport width of three metres.

For an eight-row front-rear combination, the Toppa 400 in the front is combined with a Toppa 800 Combi in the rear. The two booms at the back of the tractor are hydraulically folded to operate two rows twice. The Toppa 400 haulm topper has a road transport width of 3.29 m with a row width of 4 x 75 cm.

The Toppa 600 and 800 Combi allow separate control of the two booms either via a hydraulic control box or optionally via ISOBUS with AUX-N assignment. When used with standard wide-angle PTO shafts, the haulm toppers can be lifted independently on wedge-shaped surfaces.

The pendulum-suspended housings of the haulm topper allow adaptation to uneven ground. An optional hydraulic side shift is available. It can be controlled manually or, at the highest configuration level, automatically align with the ridges. This is particularly relevant when the number of rows of the planter does not match the number of ridges of the haulm topper.

The Toppa 800 is an eight-row haulm topper for rear mounting which can be hydraulically folded to an external width of 3 m for road transport. It is particularly suitable for farms using eight-row planting methods and tractors without a front PTO shaft.

Perfect down to the last detail

The Toppa series retains the Grimme flails which, adapted to the ridge contour, ensure an even and clean flail pattern. An optimised flail arrangement follows the trend of ever-larger ridges.

In addition to other flail types, counter-blades can be installed for optimum haulm shredding, positioned closer to the flail shaft in the event of flail wear. In combination with the new, extended haulm deflector plates, the placement of the potato haulm between the ridges is significantly improved. This benefits subsequent chemical siccation by ensuring thorough wetting of the stems.

Superficial ridge pressing wheels or 'RidgeRunners' can be selected for each row, closing cracks on the top of ridges after haulm topping. The individual suspension adapts optimally to each row. The extremely low tyre pressure allows precise rolling, effectively closing cracks in the ridges. The potatoes can thus be shielded from direct sunlight and the risk of green tubers is minimised. Fulling ensures that the wheels clean themselves.

Optimum working height

The haulm topper is guided by the tractor's three-point hydraulic system and 175 R14 support wheels. The height can be adjusted mechanically via a spindle or hydraulically from the cab. The working depth can be checked on a scale.

An 'implement road lifting frame' for the four-row haulm toppers, with an external width of less than 3 m, has been developed for road transport. The Toppa 400 has an additional three-point linkage on the outer left-hand side of the machine frame. By attaching to the lateral road lifting frame, the topper can be lifted into a transport position within minutes, moving at unlimited transport speed.

The Toppa 800 with ridge pressure wheels called 'RidgeRunner' in working position.

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