

# **PRESS RELEASE FROM STANDEN**

## **The new Standen Goliath high speed potato planter**

May 27, 2002: There is always a demand for a machine which will out-perform what is already on the field, which is what drives progress. The Goliath is a trailed planter based in part on the new Standen six row planter, in part on the existing range, and in part on new concepts.

There is always a demand for a machine which will out-perform what is already on the field, which is what drives progress. When Standen introduced the H600 six row folding planter last year they thought they had covered the requirements of even the largest growers. With two row, three row, four row, and now six row models in their range, let alone options such as platform models, Quad and five row bed models, they thought they had the market covered. But not so. So where was the gap?

It all came down to tractor horse-power. On the face of it the six row planter, with its 40 plus acres a day performance, would meet everybody's need for high performance. The only problem was that in order to prepare the soil in front of the planter it was necessary to use three-bed cultivators, and this meant 200+ HP tractors. Not everyone has 200HP tractors, so the question that came to Standen was how to produce a single bed planter with a really high daily output, that did not compromise the accuracy of the cup-belt system, nor the ability of the planter to handle chitted seed.

The answer is the Goliath. This is a trailed planter based in part on the new Standen six row planter, in part on the existing range, and in part on new concepts. Its basic specification is that of a trailed planter on a chassis that incorporates a steering axle, hydraulic cup drives, with the Spaceselector system as standard, auto depth-control, and a three tonne fixed hopper with integral feed belts which are electronically controlled.

To achieve a high forward speed it is offered in a number of formats, with special attention to soil flow at the point of planting. In addition, for Quad users, a pair of cup feed belts with four rows (instead of the conventional two rows) of cups per belt deliver double the number of tubers per metre run for any given forward speed. This will in itself permit much higher forward speeds as has already been proved by the first Standen user to adopt this system. The Quad openers are set at between 10 inches and 12 inches apart, the system being best on 2 metre bed work.

Three row users are also catered for, and indeed the photograph that accompanies this article shows one of the first three row models at work on a customer's farm in the spring of 2002. This particular machine is set up to plant five rows, with Quad outers and a single row centre. Various opener systems are under consideration, ranging from the standard openers as used at present on Standen planters, to systems incorporating discs, tines, and combinations of all three.



The outcome of the Standen Goliath design concept is that with the need to "refuel" much reduced, thanks to the 4 tonne tank, and the ability to drive at a much faster forward speed, the new Goliath will allow close on double the output of a conventional planter - without the need for an excessively high horsepower tractor. Its retail price will be in the range of £22,000 to £25,000, the exact price depending upon the specification selected.

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