

Bed renovator

What does the machine do?

The bed renovator was designed with the aid of a grower group. The machine aims to renovate existing cane rows – which have been established on a controlled traffic farming system – to allow a new cane crop to be planted back into the beds.

The machine is also capable of working directly through the trash blanket to reform the beds for planting soybeans fallow crops. Cane is best controlled with herbicides before the cultivation phase.

The machine ‘ploughs’ away the bed before ripping the growing area and reforming the bed in one pass.

Where is it used?

The machine can be used after stool spray-out to reform beds. A single pass through an old cane stool can produce a lumpy result. This machine work well when combined with a wave disk cultivator.

Many growers have also used the machine to form mounds to plant fallow soybeans after initial cultivation with an offset disk. Fallow crops such as soybeans can also be incorporated with the machine to allow for cane planting.

What are the benefits?

The machine rips and reforms beds in one pass saving time and money.

What are the cautions?

In most situations the tilth achieved in one pass will not be adequate for the re-establishment of sugar

cane. Several passes a few weeks or months apart will give the best result. The machine produces the best results in friable soils.

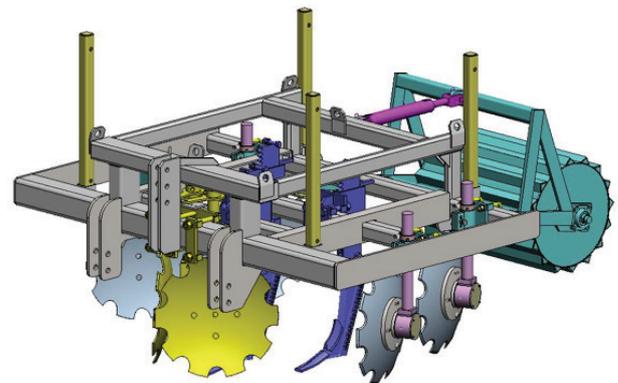
How is it constructed?

The machine is heavy duty in its construction and has the ability to rip and reform beds simultaneously.

The machine has two large disks similar to those found on a trash incorporator mounted at the front of the machine to part the trash and stubble. These disks are followed by a set of rippers that rip the bed area. Disks mounted to the sides return the soil displaced by the front disk to the bed area. A crumble roller at the rear of the machine firms the bed.

Sourcing a machine

Many of the bed renovators used by industry have been constructed by growers by using second hand components from trash incorporators. New machines are available for purchase from Hodge Industries based in Mackay.



Above: Drawing of machine.



Above: Bed renovator being used to incorporate a soybean crop.



Above: Forming beds for a fallow soybean crop.