

PRESS RELEASE
Meerbusch, 10th of November 2017

Start-Up DULKS with the new weeding machine ABRAH for the first time at an international trade fair

Weeding machine ABRAH

The ABRAH allows it for the first time to weed between narrow row distances starting at 5 cm. With this machine it is now possible to remove the weeds between the sensitive young crops like e.g. carrots in double rows or rocket salad.

By reducing the effort of hand weeding, the main cost driver in organic farmed carrots, cost savings of up to 750 €/ ha are possible.

Functional principle

The ABRAH can be mounted as a unit onto all common weeding frames. Each unit can follow the contour of the ground individually through a parallelogram suspension. The work in the soil is done through two rotating tools, positioned behind one another. The first tools are the so-called roller blades. The tools teeth loosen the soil by penetrating it approx. 1.7 cm deep. If clods or a crust are present, they are reliably broken up, without pushing soil onto the row. In the second row of tools are rotational shares, whose blades cut through the soil horizontally. These tools are driven by the roller blades via a transmission at twice the driving speed. Through the fast rotation, grass weeds and roots weeds are reliably excavated and transported to the surface of the soil.

Advantages

- **Improvement of the soil structure:** Through the breakup of crusts, siltation and clods it is possible to weed close the row, even with difficult soil conditions
- **Adjust row distance individually:** Starting at 5 cm, every row distance can individually be set up. Whether it is rocket salad with 11 cm, Carrot in double row cultivation with 7 cm distance or triple row cultivations with 5 cm distance – all configurations can be set up even on the field
- **Less remaining weed infestation:** Through the little side movement of the soil, the very precise depth guidance and the very little probability of clogging because of the rotation tools it is possible to weed very close to the row. In most cases only an area of 4 cm width remains untreated. This reduces the remaining weed infestation substantially.

- **Compatible to all common weeding frames:** through exchangeable clamps the ABRAH can be clamped onto the Omega-profile (e.g. Schmotzer, Kress) or Square tube (e.g. Steketee). This makes the ABRAH to the ideal retrofit solution.

Technical data

Maximum tool width: 24 cm

Weight: ca. 25 kg

Driving speed: 3 – 7 km/h

Maximum plant height: 11 cm

Price

Between the 15.12.2017 and the 15.01.2018 ABRAH machine units can be ordered for a price of 2000 €. These machines are finished until the beginning of the season (15th of March). Later that period, machines can be ordered with a delivery period of 6 weeks. The manufacturing is done by experienced German suppliers.

The Start-up Dulks

Johan Labs (Mechanical Engineer) and André Dülks (Agricultural Scientist) have got a common Vision: to facilitate an ecological agriculture through efficient machines. André, who grew up on a farm and who was tired to fight weeds painstakingly by hand and Johan, who believes that every good machine also needs to create an ecological benefit, worked hand in hand to develop the ABRAH.

One and a half years ago the development of the ABRAH began in corporation with pilot farms. Through the tests of various prototypes on different soils and crops the design is field-tested and can be reserved after the Agritechnica as pilot series.

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