

Berthoud boosts sprayer range with futuristic Tenor

Trailed sprayers appear to be a popular choice at the present time as those using tractor mounted units seek out higher capacity machines. Andy Collings reports on the launch of the latest Berthoud trailed sprayer range – the Tenor.



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Berthoud's new Tenor trailed sprayer range offers four models from 2,800 litres to 5,500 litres and boom widths from 20m to 42m.

Berthoud has increased its trailed sprayer range with the four model Tenor line-up. Capacities from 2,800 litres to 5,500 litres, the 2,800 L, 3,500L and 4,300L versions are now in production with the 5,500L due to make its appearance later next year. The sprayers are available with a choice of application systems – proportional application according to engine speed (DPM), and DP Tronic which is a computerised application system which uses pressure sensors (DPE). The company's wheel driven pump for proportional application (DPA) will be available in 2008.

Berthoud maintains the new sprayers have been freshly designed from the ground up and it is a claim, which appears to carry some weight in certain areas of their build.

One of these areas is the construction of the tank itself which takes on an almost tortured look due to its intricate shaping which is designed to ensure all liquids drain freely without allowing chemical deposits to build up.

Berthoud would also point to the sprayer's new control system as being a key development which not only reduces in-line residue but simplifies the control of the sprayer's functions overall.

Out goes the old multi-lever system with its proliferation of control levers, valves and lengths of pipe work, and in comes a simple two-lever system, which has fewer pipes – and less volume for residue to reside in as a result.

In use, the operator lines up pointers with numbers that indicate the function required. For example, position number one is for filling, two is for chemical incorporation using tank water, three is for chemical incorporation using clean water, and so on. In all, there are 17 different functions that can be controlled by just two levers – Berthoud calls it Berlogic.

The twin turbine centrifugal pump, already used on the company's existing sprayers, has been updated through use of harder wearing steel and an end bearing on the end of the pump drive shaft. Output is rated at 550 litres at three bar pressure and, being a variable rate pump, unlike, say a diaphragm pump, volume increases if pressure is reduced.

Berthoud has clearly put some thought into operator requirements. The positioning of the chemical induction unit next to the valve control system makes sense but the addition of the nearby 20 litre clean water tank for hand washing is a commendable design point.

A look at the chassis is to note that the company's Actiflex axle suspension system can be employed, if specified – a system which uses a single coil spring and shock absorber to provide suspension irrespective of the weight being carried.

In the towing department, the sprayers may be fitted with a number of drawbar configurations – some with leaf spring suspension and others which allow manual steering of the sprayer. Top of the tree, though, must be the automatic trail alignment option which has wheels that steer and, claims Berthoud, keeps the sprayer's centre of gravity correctly positioned as a result.

Boom options from 20m to 42m are available, with those of 36m or more being built from aluminium. Suspension and control of the boom – always a contentious issue in sprayer design – is achieved through a bank of coil springs and shock absorbers using nitrogen accumulators. The boom can also be angled hydraulically.

Used in conjunction with the axle suspension, Berthoud claims boom stability is maintained in a wide variety of operating conditions.

Over all, with the doors and panels closed, the Berthoud Tenor trailed sprayers have a neat, some may say futuristic, appearance. These new models offer users a high degree of sophistication that should help make the task of chemical application both simple and accurate.

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