

# Sleek new 'Tenor' is on the money

*By Derek Casey*

This week we have exclusive pictures and information on a sleek new sprayer. Readers will be aware of Berthoud, the respected French sprayer company. However, you will not know that they have christened their latest offering 'Tenor'. Before we get into the nitty-gritty, and to avoid any readers getting prematurely excited there is no link between name and price!

Because Berthoud have been building crop sprayers for over 100 years now, delegates at the product launch were expecting something more than just another new model. Yes this level of expectation is derived from Berthoud's popularity as a brand in the world of tillage, but could they live up to the increasingly high product standards being set?

## Details

The machine was designed with an aim of maximising the effectiveness of spraying while reducing its impact on the environment. To meet the needs of varying scale, Berthoud are offering the new model in four different capacities: 2800l, 3500l, 4300l and 5500l. The Tenor is available with a choice of regulation controls and booms. With application regulators, at the moment there are two choices. The 'Autoregular' system uses proportional application according to engine speed, while the 'DP Tronic' system uses computerised application control using pressure sensors. In addition, the end user will have a choice of booms ranging in width from 24m to 42m.

## Innovations

A quick look at the sprayer suggests a diversion away from a machine that is typically one of the most ugly in any farmyard. The sleek design and flowing contours are not just for aesthetic reasons, however. So called 'dead spots' are a scourge to all spray men and the Tenor's tank design virtually eliminates this problem, Berthoud claim. The main tank has a diamond pointed bottom and sump with side drainage pipe to minimise residues at the end of application.

My favourite innovation was the brand new valve and pump assembly, which now has fewer and shorter pipes. The consequences of this are twofold. Firstly, it makes the whole job easier for the operator - the different functions and cycles are clearly labelled on the 'Berlogic' panel and you are clearly shown how to change from one to another, e.g. from rinsing to filling. Secondly, the decreased number of pipes avoids the build up of residue.

There are two filling options - external suction by a quick connection or by the manhole with its filter mesh. The manhole has been designed so that it is easily accessible. This is facilitated by the additional steps that have been inbuilt into the tank's overall shape.

For field rinsing, a 380-litre clean water tank is fitted on 2800 and 3500 models, while a 580-litre tank is on the 4300 and 5500 L models for washing the tank pipes and boom. This clean water supply allows you to rinse the spraying system without returning to the main tank.

These functions are performed by hand on the Tenor range, but as an additional option you can conduct the rinse from the cab if so desired.

## **Pump & suspension**

Pumping through a 550l/min Omega twin turbine centrifugal pump, priming time has been reduced which means you can expect faster filling. For the smallest model, you can expect to fill the tank in under five minutes.

The suspension system used is most interesting. Known as 'Actiflex 2', it means that the sprayer has a completely independent suspension system from the tractor. The results, claim Berthoud, are better boom stability and of course a smoother ride for the all-important operator.

Finally, the swivelling chassis helps to keep crop damage to a minimum and has the effect of keeping the turning circle down to a respectable 6.2m. Prices for the four model range are to be announced.

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