

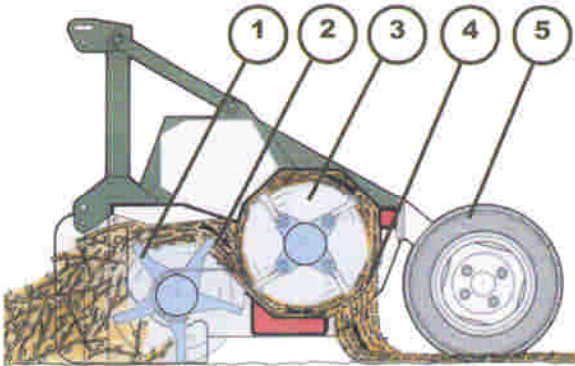
Pruning Disposal and Cover Crop Planters

The disposal of woody material in vineyard and orchard offers a problem and an opportunity. The general solution is to use a hammer equipped flail shredder to cut grass and break down prunings on the ground. Good quality mower/shredders do a reasonable job but generally leave wood chips that require considerable time in contact with soil to decompose and be incorporated into the soil.



Front view of a BRM 120 shredder. The high intake with its flanges can handle a large volume of wood.

Lagarde BRM 120



Operating diagram

Method of operation (4) is grate.



Bertie Picker

The Vine Branch Shredder from Lagarde and the Picker from Bertie are able to reduce wood from pruning operations to a pulp that incorporates rapidly and completely in to soil. By using an elevated grate enclosed rotor chamber and a 2300 RPM rotor equipped with hammers woody material is reduced to a predetermined size of pulp before it can eject through grating. Because machine does not cut grass, hammers are not slowed or dulled and are able to destroy prunings completely. Yes, it is true, that cutting grass and occasional contact with soil dulls hammers, not the wood, even wood as hard as olive is digested. Because prunings are picked up by a separate rotor and elevated to the rotor chamber that remains free of dirt and rocks. The pulp that passes through the opening in the grate is rapidly decomposed and returned to soil.



Bertie Picker with Collector

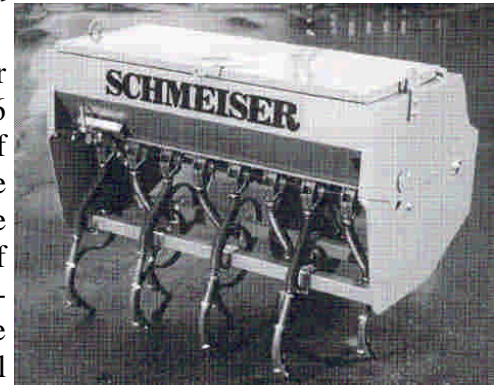
When circumstances require removal of prunings from vineyard or orchard a collector system can be had to accumulate shredded wood. The Bertie "Picker/C" allows shredded wood to be removed from Vineyard or orchard row so it can be composted in a controlled setting or so that wood can be used as raw material to make briquettes, wood stove pellets etc. or potential insect or disease problems can be suppressed by removing infected wood.

One of the most important vineyard and orchard management operations is the establishment of cover crops either perennials or annual. The narrower the row spacing the fewer seeder options until recently. Several new planters are now available with option of planting strips as narrow as 42" in ground that has been tilled after harvest. The first is a drill that uses disc openers to put cover crop seed mixes in 7" apart drills (rows) at proper depth, covers seed and firms soil over seed. Extremely well made and solid, no more precise seed handling could be asked for. This drill comes in 42", 48", 60" and 72" wide models.



Vineyard Drill with Disc opener

The same company makes a lighter simpler "S" tine drill in 4, 5, and 6 foot versions that costs about half what the double disc opener type costs. This style seeder does not have the positive seed covering feature of the disc type drill. The key to its effectiveness is the quality the tillage that precedes it, uniformly loose soil allows the vibration of the spring steel of the "S" tine to cause seed to be buried by loose soil falling back into seeding furrow.



4 foot "S" Tine Seeder

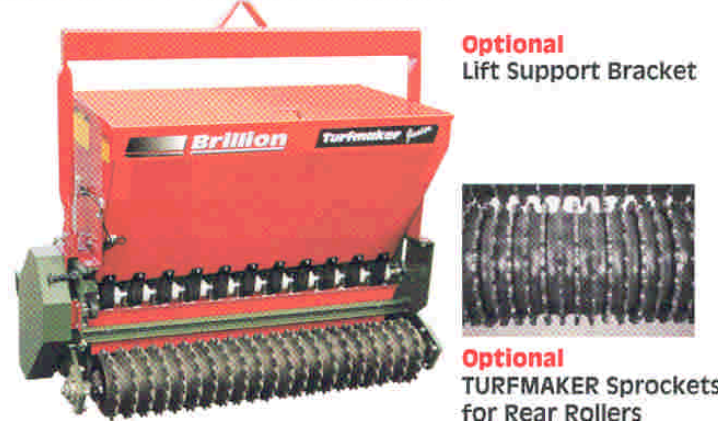
The third seeder option is a packer-roller type that is specially good at planting small seeds like alfalfa, clovers and trefoils commonly used in permanent covers. These come in 5 ft. and 7 ft. overall width models suitable for wider row spacing. Like the "S" tine type, these need good seed bed preparation to optimize their design



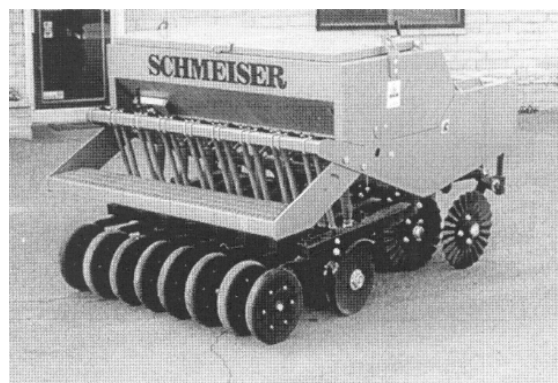
Packer Roller 5 ft. seeding width

advantage in placing seed at uniformly shallow depth, properly covered and firmed.

Model SLP204 4 foot TURFMAKER Junior



4 ft. seeding width 5 ft overall



No Till. Note extra fluted coulters to open ground

The fourth option is a no till drill. The same drill with disc opener referred to earlier can be had with a special heavy duty undercarriage that allows an aggressive coulter to cut through sod and compacted soils without prior tillage. Obviously this saves time but it also allows over seeding to augment already established vegetation without setting its growth back while new seeds are emerging.

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