

Very Successful Greens Growing

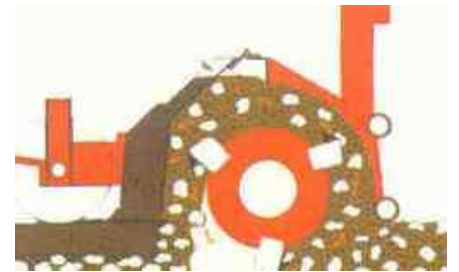
A growers passion for the highest quality of produce, knowledge of sustainable farming practices, careful organization and constant attention to detail has created a very successful farm enterprise. A visit to www.mcclendonsselect.com will give you a glimpse of the unusually diverse farming enterprise located in Peoria, Arizona.

With Robert McClendon's permission, I will describe some of the implements he has used to produce the results he seeks and that offer the efficiencies to allow so much to be accomplished with so many timing constraints.

1. Primary tillage using a Falc Toro Spader gives 14 inch deep tillage that promotes good soil tilth keeping crop residues well worked into top soil while eliminating any plow sole and opening up subsoil without diluting top soil.



2. "Hortech Evolution" - this reverse tine/debris burying tiller also creates a raised bed ready to plant in a single pass. Stones, hard clods, bits of sod, root balls and the like are buried under several inches of cleaned soil so they do not interfere with planting or growth of subsequent crops.



3. Massed greens are planted with a Dema Seeder that produces close lines of plants that create a dense canopy of greens, that in turn reduces weed competition and help make mechanical harvest efficient.



4. Harvesting of greens is done with "Ortomec SP120" a self propelled harvester whose bandsaw cutter cuts greens cleanly near ground and carries crop up a conveyor to a pair of totes on harvester. Operator stops machine long enough to replace totes as they fill up. Loaded totes are placed on the ground beside the bed to be collected and taken to the wash line for final preparation for sale. The 42 inch wide beds pictured are 350 feet long and are harvested in little over a half hour each. This grower chooses to have two men pick out weeds and any damaged plants while in the field rather than just at wash line. Also worth noting is that produce is being touched only with gloved hands and that totes are kept very clean.



Removing weeds and defective leaves during Harvest.



2nd man on platform unloads full Totes.



42 inch wide stands of greens on 350 foot long beds.

5. If you want to start growing greens on a substantial scale you now have a model to follow and Ferrari Tractor can get you the equipment to do the job well..