

# Compare Weed Badger<sup>®</sup> to the competition

Get answers to the frequently asked questions below.

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## **How does Weed Badger® compare with other in-row mechanical weed control tools?**

The long-standing policy of the Weed Badger Division is to refrain from commenting in a critical or disparaging way about any other product designed for mechanical in-row strip weed control. Simply stated, we don't "put down" other in-row tiller manufacturers. So you will not find product brand names mentioned in this report.

Since 1979 when Weed Badger began full production, many machines have come and gone. Companies continue to present various versions and concepts for killing in-row weeds. Growers need to make informed decisions. You need to make comparisons with other products on the market now and in the past so you can purchase the best equipment for your weed control. Our goal is to make observations on two basic groups of equipment and how they compare to Weed Badger. We will then discuss some issues that must be considered for long-term success.

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## **What are the advantages of buying Weed Badger<sup>®</sup> instead of the European imports?**

Various tools built for European orchards and vineyards have found their way around the world. These products may work with relative effectiveness in Europe. They may satisfy European growers needs. But are conditions in your area the same as in Europe? Row and plant spacing, field location and size, more moderate weather patterns, availability of hand labor, soil and fields that have been cultivated and contoured for hundreds of years, tractor designs, and even their approach to working in the field is different. We do not suggest that there is any deficiency in European growing practice. It is simply very different.

Weed Badger is designed for growers with real world conditions. It is designed for the extreme conditions growers worldwide face. It is built for the types of tractors you use. Compare the European-made in-row mechanical tillers. You'll find several key features Weed Badger equipment that you will NOT find on European imports. Additionally the European design puts the focus only on in-row tillage. European designs simply don't work at performing the many varied in-row jobs that you need to do. Weed Badger is made to be a versatile tool carrier. Weed Badger equipment is designed for the real world growing conditions you face.

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## How do the “copycat” or “Me Too” type machines compare?

The saying, “imitation is the best form of flattery,” has proven true in the case of Weed Badger. Since 1979 we have seen many “me too” attempts to copy our equipment. Weed Badger was the first in-row tiller to provide a commercial-duty, mechanical alternative to chemical in-row weed control for a wide variety of crops.

Although copies of Weed Badger may flatter us, they are a real source of frustration “down the road” for growers who purchase them. Growers ask if we accept trade-ins on various brands of such machines – usually spin-offs of our design. The first challenge is that there is usually little left to trade in. In an effort to “build ‘em a little cheaper,” the quality suffers. The shops that make these copies usually choose inferior hydraulic components and build light duty frames that fall far below our standards. Unfortunately, these paying customers perform “real world” stress tests on the cheap copies and total structural failure or system breakdown is the result.

Weed Badger is manufactured with a very strong structural frame and the highest quality components. In the real world, growers face crooked vines, volunteer trees, rocks, nightmarish vining weeds, and even operators that learn some things the hard way...so a machine must be built to handle it all.

The copycat, “me too” equipment is usually designed only for growers in a small region close to where it is produced. A product designed for only a limited group of growers in a local region usually lacks the adjustment capabilities for conditions outside of that region. Even for those local growers a versatile machine is usually superior. Growers worldwide work with a great variety of crops. The tremendous variety of conditions, terrain, and climate means a wide variety of production methods.

Different crops and methods require varied in-row jobs. Grower feedback from around the world has been indispensable in development of our long list of features and optional interchangeable tools. The “me too” machines offer little versatility and few interchangeable tools. Weed Badger is very versatile and designed for growers in North America. We have shipped to thousands of locations since 1979. Weed Badger is the global leader for in-row weed control and strip management.

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## How does the Weed Badger<sup>®</sup> machine's versatility and features make it better?

We consider an adjustable sensor system essential. Blocks of younger trees, vines, or bushes require an adjustable lighter action. Mature blocks can handle heavy action.

Fingertip override is a must. There will always be that crooked vine or tree trunk...or a volunteer caneberry, wild tree, or a big monster weed. The sensor override will make sure you or your trained operator "make the call". It's just like the fingertip override on your vehicle's cruise control. You take manual speed control for an instant or an hour.

What about the occasions when the sensor is not practical? Big out-of-control weeds, newly planted material too small for stakes, without tree or vine guards, and too delicate for a sensor. Fingertip override becomes simply fingertip control when the sensor is removed. You can run it on semi-automatic or manual. You make the choice.

Get positive depth control with the exclusive Weed Badger Posi-Depth Plate. You can adjust the plate to control tooth penetration into the soil. Go as shallow as just beyond the base of the plate or go as deep as 4 inches. Pitching the head back slightly by lowering the 3-point lift arms and tilt the rotor head to slope slightly up toward the plant row, along with the special design of this feature allows the rotor to float over the ground following the contour. These adjustments also shape the soil surface as you desire.

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## What other jobs can I do with the Weed Badger®?

Weed Badger has a selection of tools to do almost any in-row job imaginable Use the machine for weed control season and use it the remainder of the year for a variety of other jobs.

- Do you want to mow? Maybe you don't want to disturb the soil under the canopy at all. We have designed the toughest commercial in-row rotary mower on the planet, the **Model 3875 Weed Badger Mower Attachment**.
- How about sweeping? Late in the season you want the trees, vines, bushes, or shrubs to harden off in preparation for winter...but you need to sanitize before winter. We have the **Badger Broom Assembly** to sweep out trash and cleanup the strip. Use it again in the spring to remove soil from vines after hill-down. Gently sweep away soil with poly bristles while you sit on the tractor seat.
- Use the **Rotor Shroud** to control soil movement up or down a slope or maintain a level surface. Simple rotor pitch and tilt adjustments are the key to getting the results you desire while using this option. You can hill-up, take soil away from the row, and maintain berms, terraces, or irrigation furrows with this option. Incorporate granulated materials into the soil.
- The **Cyclone Spade Attachment** is the ultimate "search and rescue" tillage tool. Growers want a tool to handle really big weeds and tough grasses. Cut planting strips in sod. This tillage head won't plug in brambles, tall or vining weeds.
- The **Brush Rake Attachment** will carry prunings and brush out into the middle, sweeping up to a 42" swath in one pass.
- Widen out in-row strips and borders an additional 36 inches at up to 7 MPH with the high-speed **Qwik Disk Attachment**.
- **Extended reach packages and adjustment features** allow for reach out under mature trees and to accommodate larger tractors. Use the same machine in both standard and high-density orchards with simple adjustments in the field. Weed Badger also adjusts to work in narrow row spacings. The exclusive quick mount system lets you put a three-point model Weed Badger on or take it off in less than 10 minutes.
- The **Hydraulic Side Lift Kit** will suspend, raise or lower the rotor head. It allows very shallow weed control or the ability to suspend the head over open spade holes in the nurseries. It also helps perform jobs like crowning hops and strawberries.

We could go on and on about options. The point is Weed Badger has the tools to get it done. Just ask us. We are here to get you the answers.

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## Is it a good long-term choice?

When comparing products, ask yourself some questions. If I buy a European import or a “me too” copycat machine will I continue to receive product support and free, professional service help? Where will I buy replacement parts? Who will help me make adjustments if my growing methods change?

Consider these questions if a local dealer has started carrying some European import or copycat machine. If a dealership is managing a couple dozen product lines or more, can they realistically answer all my questions? Can they really understand and service the product? If a dealership is not in the habit of stocking parts how long do I have to wait to get repair parts? Many dealerships order parts directly from the manufacturer when you place an order. If I want to do some retrofitting when mounting the machine or try a unique application how do I contact the people who actually built the machine?

With what we see out there, and with the utmost respect for equipment dealerships, often the grower using the machine is left to figure things by themselves. This seems the case whether the dealership is offering domestic or imported lines of equipment. There are so many scenarios where you’ll want information...the need to switch from one tractor to another in the shortest time possible, or experimenting with a new tool to perform a different in-row job. You’ll need help from a knowledgeable service person with experience...and with the “me too” and import equipment we just don’t see it happening.

Hit-and-run “dumping” of government subsidized equipment is the dirty little secret of the European agricultural equipment exporters. They often export original equipment at a low price. The first parts order is the shocker. The machine purchase may look like a bargain but the repair parts often make up the difference...that is, if you can even get them in a reasonable time. As a grower have you ever felt the effects of subsidized imported fruit, juice, concentrate, or wines? Then you realize that domestic manufacturers face the same practices with machinery imports. To you, pricing is likely not the only issue.

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## **What do you mean when you say, “Real people, really close, to give real world help really fast?”**

Immediate service help and access to repair parts are as close as the telephone. If you live in a stocking Weed Badger dealer's territory and that particular store does not have what you want on the shelf when you need it we reserve the right to get you what you need using overnight delivery if that is what you want. Answers to questions are immediate. Our shelves always have parts. When you call the Weed Badger factory you talk to a living, breathing, knowledgeable person who is trained and interested in helping you. Feel free to call us with any service or adjustment question. You can ask questions by email or fax 24 hours a day. Get the results you want. We designed the equipment. We manufacture the equipment. We know how to help you get the most out of your equipment.

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## **Why is Weed Badger<sup>®</sup> the best choice?**

Please consider Weed Badger equipment. Consider the flexibility of the models, the abundance of features, the variety of optional tools, and the help and support we offer as a company. After you make your comparison, we will be prepared to help you set up the best in-row weed control and strip management system available.

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