

Bollbox: No backache, speedy planting

Backstrains from lugging seed bags around and having to touch treated seed at planting may soon be a thing of the past for cotton growers thanks to an innovation from Deltapine.

Neil Robertson, Deltapine's Regional Sales Manager said the new 'Bollbox' has the potential to not only make planting safer for growers but also speed it up considerably.

Neil explained that the Bollbox is a 900 kg hopper designed for bulk handling cotton seed. He said up to two Bollboxes can be mounted using a forklift on a special Speedking auger which can fill cotton planters quickly and with the minimum of effort.

"We brought the Bollbox from the US for this planting season, where it has successfully gone through two years of trials," Neil said.

"We plan to run some intensive trials with a couple of growers this year to see how it copes under Australian conditions."

Neil said the new system would be especially convenient for larger growers because up to 180 hectares worth of seed would fit into two Bollboxes.

But he said the system would suit the majority of growers because Deltapine plans to offer a 'fill to order' service where growers can have the correct amount of the selected variety delivered in a Bollbox for one or a number of fields.

He said, "If growers are using Roundup



The Bollbox in use recently at Budvult Miralwyn Cotton, Walgett.

Ready varieties without pre-emergent herbicides, using a Bollbox would speed up planting even more because growers wouldn't have to stop to fill up with water and chemicals."

The Bollbox was used recently at Budvult Miralwyn Cotton at Walgett. Assistant Manager Raoul Edwards said, "The Bollbox was very quick and I was impressed with the way it filled the planter boxes — it was simple and hassle free.

"In addition, there are no bags to burn and very little waste," Raoul said.

"We have been using returnable containers for a lot of our chemicals and it seems a logical step to move in that direction for our seed."

Ben Mathews, Deltapine Regional Sales Manager based at Dubbo, said the Bollbox took around two minutes to fill a 12 row planter with very little spillage.

If this year's trials are successful, growers will be able to order Deltapine seed in Bollboxes in the 2003 planting season. 🌱

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