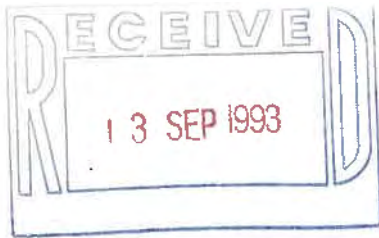


MASON PLANTERS PTY. LTD.

Lot 6, Industrial Avenue, Toowoomba.

Phone (076) 34 5566

FINAL REPORT

TITLE : SELF PROPELLED HIGH CLEARANCE
COTTON SPRAYER

CODE : M P I C

COMPANY : MASON PLANTERS PTY LTD

PREPARED BY : R. J. STEGGALL



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General Summary

The prototype has now completed approximately 250 hours work. The work has included defoliation, insecticide application and weed control. No major functional problems have been encountered. The air shear boom has done most of the spraying but a conventional boom has been used to spray some weeds.

Minor Problems

When spraying with the air shear boom at maximum speed and maximum load, oil and water temperatures have reached undesirable levels after several hours work. An oil cooler is fitted. A larger radiator and fan system will be installed next season. We are confident that the problem will be overcome.

Another concern is the uncertainty of legal requirements in regard to a vehicle such as this. Roll over protection structures (ROPS) laws exist for tractors. The definition of a tractor is unclear. We are seeking legal advice on this and other matters relating to the latest workplace and safety regulations.

Boomspray Performance

The air shear system has worked well giving even accurate spraying. There appears a problem in being able to recommend lower rates as label rates for air shear in cotton are not available at this stage. It should be possible to lower rates considerably with this sprayer when such labels are available.



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Future Development

It is hoped to fit a larger cooler system to the machine shortly. Slightly larger tyres are also recommended and will be fitted to the next model.

Conclusion

A self propelled high powered, high clearance insecticide sprayer is now available to cotton growers. As with all products development continues. It would be desirable to bring the cost of the unit down, and this will happen with batch production.



R. STEGGALL
PROJECT ENGINEER

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