

TURN BACK THE CLOCK



**A GLIMPSE
INTO
NEW HOLLAND'S
PAST**



THE
SIZZ-WEEDER

In the years just after World War II, flame cultivation seemed like a very good idea.

The common method of removing weeds from cash crops at that time was to harrow between the rows with a cultivator, then attack remaining weeds manually with hoes. The process was time-consuming, labor intensive and expensive. Hand hoeing cost \$3 to \$4 an acre.

Flame cultivation promised to reduce weed removal costs to as little as 50 cents per acre. A two-row flame unit was said to handle the hoeing job required on 125 acres of cotton, doing the work of 25 hoe hands.

It was the first major threat to boll weevils in years. Cotton, corn, sugar cane, soybeans, lima and snap beans, peanuts, and many other crops were said to be successfully flame cultivated. Engineers from Mississippi State and Cornell Universities confirmed the success of flame cultivation and testimonials were positive.

Enter the New Holland Sizz-Weeder flame cultivator. In 1946 and 1947, New Holland offered the Sizz-Weeder in two- or four-row sizes, with list prices of \$495 and \$690 respectively



PICTURE OF ORIGINAL PRODUCT LITERATURE - 1946

(a new Model 76 baler had a list price of \$2,049 at the time). Both Sizz-Weeder models were designed to fit popular makes and models of tractors.

Butane or propane fuel from a 70-gallon tank was fed under pressure through feed lines to burners which were ignited by spark plugs, with ignition current supplied from the tractor's electrical system. Burners directed continuous, high velocity jets of flame against weeds in the crop row.

As the tractor moved along, jets of flame would kill or retard the growth of weeds while the larger, stronger crops would remain unscathed.

Of course, in a dry field or in the hands of a careless operator it sometimes burned the wrong plants - and entire fields. It probably deserved a longer life than the year or two it had in the late 1940s. But for decades after it disappeared from New Holland's product line, the memory of the Sizz-Weeder lives on.

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