

Equipment Efficiency v. Cost at Picadilly Farm

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NE Fruit and
Veg
Conference,
12/19/2024

Picadilly Farm Overview



2024 Picadilly Farmers



Five equipment items I know were worth the money

1. Basket Weeder
2. Water Wheel Transplanter
3. Flame Weeder
4. Rinse Conveyor
5. Seedling Tray Racks

Basket Weeder

- Budding Weeder Co, Dutton, MI
- www.tilmor.com, Brookdale Fruit Farm
- \$1,500 to get started
- Works for many crops
- Doesn't work well in rocky ground



Water Wheel Transplanter

- Ours came from Rain-Flo in Pa
- Brookdale also offers them
- Around \$3k currently
- Works for many crops
- Slower than other kinds of transplanters



Flame Weeder

- Custom fabrication with parts from Flame Engineering and a new tank
- Around \$7k around 2012
- Excellent for direct-seeded crops
- Not for the faint of heart

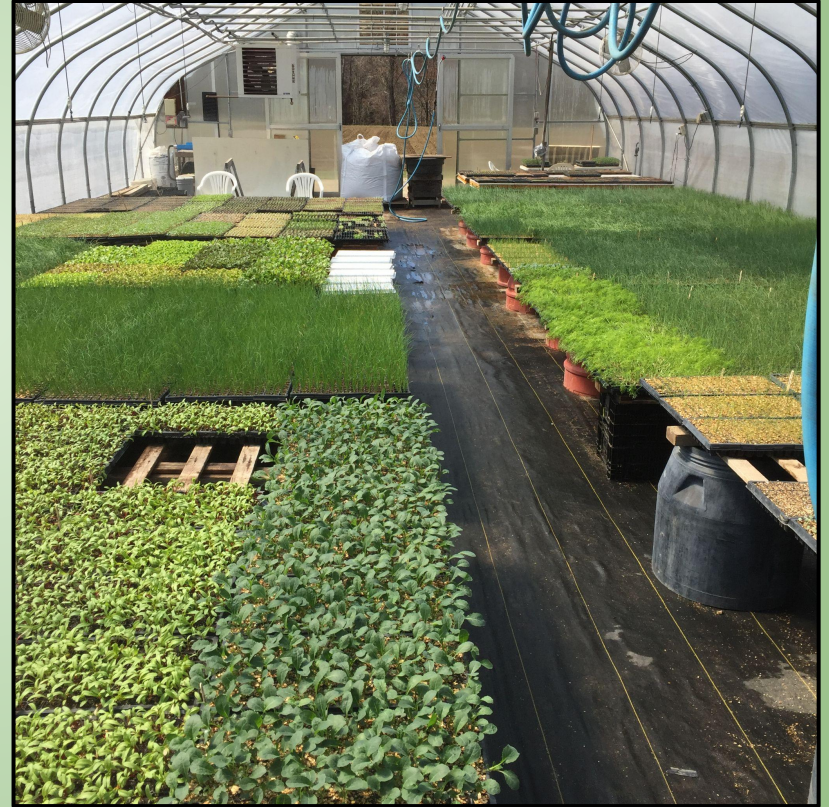


Rinse Conveyor

- AZS Brusher Equipment, Ephrata, Pa
- Around \$10k new
- Works for many crops
- 240V power required
- Can be noisy with pressure rinse option.



Seedling Racks



One equipment item I'm not sure was worth it



- Kubota M126X
- \$45k used, 2014
- 12' Perfecta harrow
- Expensive to fix
- Tricky to use

Another item we love but wouldn't buy ourselves



- SF20 Steam Generator
- Sioux Corp, South Dakota
- \$30k four years ago
- Owned by the Cheshire County Conservation District.
- Part of their Equipment Rental Program

More considerations

- Every operation is unique.
- Size - What works at 100 acres won't fit in a High Tunnel!
- Crop diversity.
- Soil Type.
- Time frame – better to invest in efficiency for work in January or July?
- Don't turn assets into liabilities.
- Besides how much did it cost, how much does it earn?

Does the pursuit of efficiency make you happy?

Thanks. I hope your time was well spent!



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