

Sample Abstract (a 2002 AE50 winner)

The Vermeer Top Gun 185 PowerMulcher applies mulch to seeded areas using large, round bales. Operators may reduce material costs by as much as 50 percent (depending on material type) as compared to the small square-bale material. Because this mulcher eliminates the physical work from blowing mulch, labor costs may also be reduced by up to 50 percent compared to the cost of an average crew needed for a small square-bale blower. The controls on the Top Gun 185 Mulcher are located at the operator's station. A single joystick controls the spout movement from side to side (300-degree rotation) as well as up and down. The joystick control is also equipped with electric over-hydraulic switches, which control the rotation of the bale, the depth of cut (feed rate) and the deflector on the end of the spout. These features give the operator greater control of mulch placement.