

# **Review of HD Packer Max Cultipacker for Small Garden Applications**

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**Product:** This product consisted of one heavy duty Packer Max Cultipacker made of steel and poly plastic components. The product is designed to assist in packing seed in the garden and food plot applications.

**Study:** The product was tested at the University of Georgia, Griffin campus on a half acre trial garden. Several varieties of vegetables were grown, but the cultipacker was used primarily in the corn trials. In this trial, the seed bed was heavily tilled and the soil leveled prior to planting. The corn was planted with a Cole push planter at an identical seed rate for all rows. The first four rows after planting were left uncultipacked. The final four rows were cultipacked with the HD Packer Max with approximately four hundred pounds of water added in the cultipacker reservoir. The cultipacker was pulled with a 400 cc ATV. All seed was irrigated and fertilized at the same rate.

**Results:** Just a few weeks after planting, it was obvious that the corn seed planted and cultipacked had a significantly higher rate of germination than the area left uncultipacked. Germination is often directly related to getting a seed at the proper depth and having good soil to seed contact. It is obvious from this study that the seed that was cultipacked had much better soil-seed contact. After two months in the garden, the surviving germinating corn is about ninety five percent in the cultipacked site and only forty percent in the non-cultipacked site.

**Comments:** From a construction standpoint, the HD Max Cultipacker is built extremely well. While leery at first, the plastic drum on the cultipacker held up extremely well during its first season of trials. We pulled it behind a 400 cc four-wheeler with no problem at all. It was easy to fill and empty with water and made it convenient to load in a

trailer for transport. As mentioned in previous conversation, the addition of transport wheels would be convenient for moving it intact from location to location around the station. In my opinion, this tool is ideal for the home gardener, small scale vegetable gardener, landscaper, or sportsman interested in developing food plots. I plan to further test the equipment this fall on other vegetable crops as well as some small pasture plantings and food plots. I definitely give this product high marks for construction and functionality. I will be recommending this product in my programs and trainings as one of the state vegetable specialists for the University of Georgia.