

Media Release

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Global launch of the 'Four Wheel Hoe' in Éire



The Four Wheel Hoe is a revolutionary new weeding machine designed for the smaller scale professional farmer and grower. It was created by international weed management scientist Dr Charles 'Merf' Merfield, (who previously worked for Teagasc) and is manufactured by Ballinadee Engineering, Cork, adding to their existing range of innovative agricultural equipment.

Dr Merfield designed the Four Wheel Hoe from scratch, starting with the fundamental principles of how to physically kill weeds, coupled with an obsessive focus on creating a machine that is as effective as possible, very easy to use and built to last a lifetime.

He says that the "Four Wheel Hoe has two modes of action, horizontal knife blades to cut and break weeds between the rows and 'mini-ridgers' to bury weeds in the rows. This means that the hoe can potentially kill all the weeds in a crop, a major break-through for pedestrian weeders". "The design of the knife blades, called 'T hoes', is also a radical improvement over traditional 'L blade' hoes, with one of the major benefits being the hoes can weed under crop foliage therefore requiring less adjustment and weeding more of the soil." This is only a smattering of the large number of highly innovative and original features contained in the Four Wheel Hoe.

The Four Wheel Hoe is also released at a very important time for Irish agriculture and horticulture. It is ideal for the rapidly expanding organic, local and artisan producers many of whom cannot, or do not, want to use herbicides. It is also one part of the solution addressing the dwindling number of herbicides for 'minority' crops such as vegetables.

Éire is the first country in the world where the Four Wheel Hoe is being sold, and it is also the manufacturing center for the whole of Europe, therefore doing its part to help the Irish economy and exports.

Full details and photos of the Four Wheel Hoe are available on the web at.

www.physicalweeding.com

For more information please contact Charles Merfield at charles@merfield.com,
mobile +44 (0)775 871 8632 and Skype [charlesmerfield](https://www.skype.com/name/charlesmerfield)