

Practical experience



Adriaan - Potato farmer

'At first we operated with a John Deere 8420T track tractor because we wanted more power, and to deliver power you need a bigger area of contact with the soil surface. The drawbacks of our previous track system were vibration and the absence of a differential. These days, we mount a wheeled tractor on the spring-loaded tracks whenever our operations call for it. The tractor is working on the tracks for about 850 hours of its 1,000 operating hours each year. Conversion only takes a couple of hours. One of the benefits is that by not driving in the furrow during ploughing we avoid soil compaction. By the spring it is hard to spot the difference with the naked eye, but the pressure on the soil is definitely lower thanks to the increased surface contact'.



Gerjan - Contractor

'It's all about the soil, and that's every farmer's focus. After all, agriculture cannot exist without sound soils. We have noticed that our customers are very aware of the need for improved soil management. They are explicitly asking us to bring our beet harvester on tracks for harvesting'.



The Zuidberg promise



Zuidberg began the development of track systems in 2011. These systems are based on rubber crawler tracks, and deliver up to 400% more soil surface contact than rubber tyres. The result of this is a significant reduction in soil pressure, protecting the subsoil. Zuidberg has developed these tracks within the company and is now a world leader in the technology, with its own facilities for design and production. Tracks are currently available for a wide range of harvesting machines and tractors. A track system can be supplied for almost any type of tractor, and customised solutions are possible. Using a track system will extend the life of any tractor and enables more versatile operation while reducing the detrimental impact on soil quality.

Zuidberg has its own production facilities for both tracks and rubber track belts. Extensive research into the combination of drive, construction and rubber tracks has resulted in an utterly reliable system.

The tracks are characterised by their compact design and interchangeability, making them deployable for both small and large tractors alike, as well as for heavy-duty harvesting machines. It takes only a few hours to install the tracks underneath a tractor, and the installation is reversible, meaning that the tractor remains suitable for the re-fitting of pneumatic tyres.

Your Zuidberg partner:



Buitenveld 5
8307 DE Ens, the Netherlands
T +31 527 253 550
info@zuidberg.com
www.zuidberg.com

Care for the soil

Soil-protecting track systems



ZUIDBERG
TRACKS

www.zuidberg.com

The soil is vulnerable

Global agriculture needs to be able to produce sufficient food for a rapidly growing world population, and thanks to increased scale and intensification it has so far succeeded in fulfilling that expectation. In the meantime, however, it has also become clear that over recent decades too little attention has been given to the soil. Now that extreme weather events due to changes in climate are manifesting themselves, the vulnerability of agricultural soils has become particularly apparent. We cannot go on like this.



Zuidberg your partner



A summary of the benefits

Heavy-duty axles and wheels, suitable for various applications

Rapidly interchangeable with standard wheels for optimum flexibility

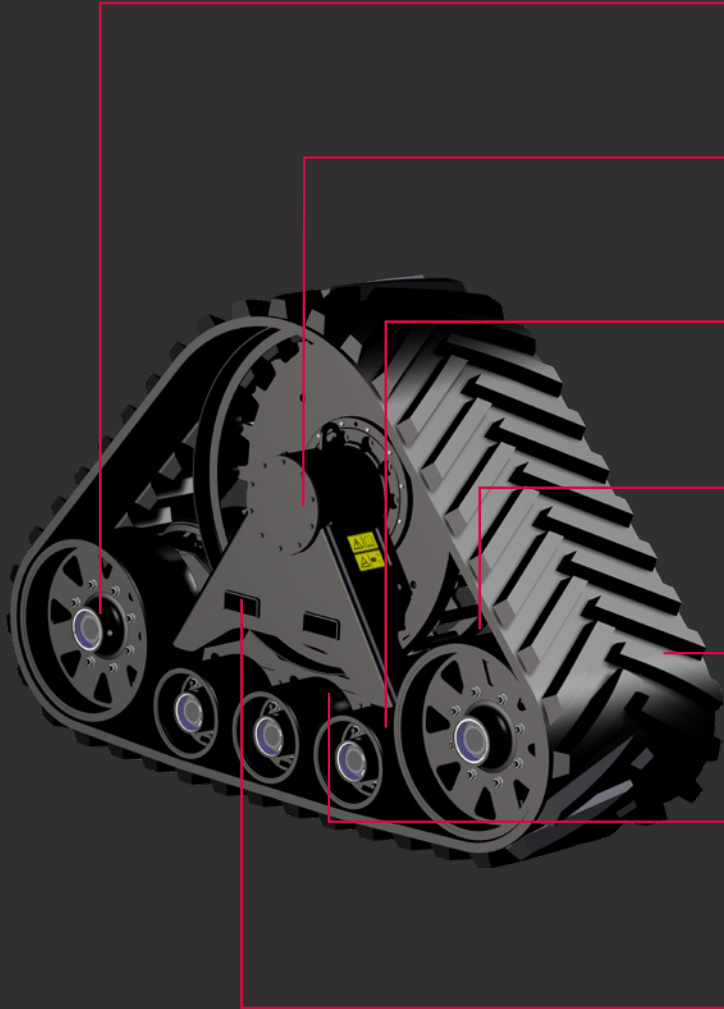
2, 3 or 4 intermediate axles to ensure the desired contact surface

Easy to maintain thanks to the central greasing system and oil level check

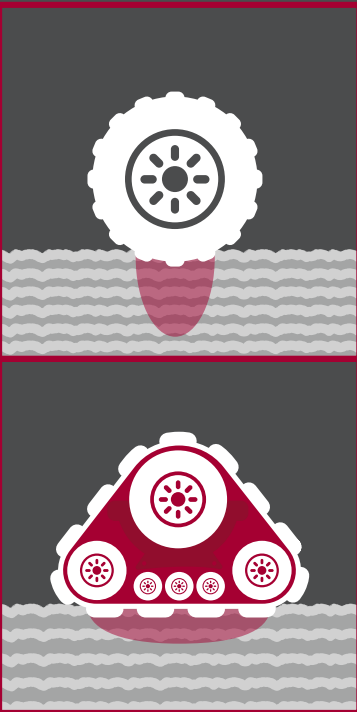
61, 76 or 92 cm (24, 30 or 36 inches) wide rubber tracks for maximum bearing capacity

Fitted with a bogie system as standard for optimal comfort and minimum wear and tear on the rubber tracks

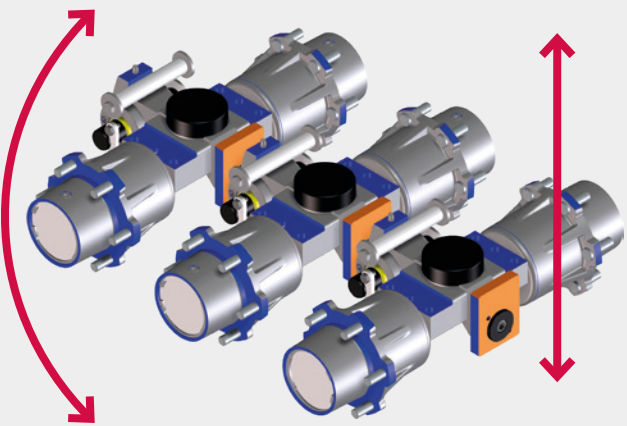
Recesses in the frame to accommodate the forks of a fork-lift truck ensure easy assembly and disassembly and minimise standstill



Up to 44% less pressure using rubber tracks



The Zuidberg bogie system increases both driving comfort and stability. The independent system optimises weight distribution, thus reducing wear and tear on both machine and tracks.



A new soil

The soil deserves renewed attention as we aim for future-proof food production. If we fail to protect our soil now, future generations will definitely encounter major problems. The soil will not be able to deliver that which is necessary for sustainable food production. Sustainable soil management requires a different way of thinking, and demands that we take responsibility now.

- reduction of soil pressure
- less soil compaction
- improved soil life
- higher crop yields
- future-proof solutions

Reduced soil stress thanks to rubber tracks

Thanks to their larger surface, rubber tracks cause less soil stress than pneumatic tyres. This has been established by research conducted at Wageningen University & Research, Aeres University of Applied Sciences and the Swedish University of Uppsala, where it has been demonstrated that rubber tracks are more soil-friendly than pneumatic tyres, and also cause reduced compaction in the upper soil layers.

The differences between rubber tracks and pneumatic tyres are still measurable as analysis of the soil goes deeper. As long as the roots are able to penetrate the compacted soil layers, there is no problem. It has been shown that the soil is less compacted at all depths after rubber tracks have been used as compared to pneumatic tyres. Roots clearly have more difficulty in developing properly in heavily compacted soil.

Conclusion

- 1 Rubber tracks cause less soil compaction: up to 44%* less as compared to special low-pressure tyres.
- 2 Compaction in the lower soil layers cannot be solved by using rubber tracks alone; the overall weight of machines will have to be reduced as well.

* Measured by comparing kg/cm² (lbf/in²) at a depth of 20 cm (8 in).

Source: Boerderij, 24 December 2013