

The Vegetable Farmer

produced since 1990

Clause Hybrid Pumpkins and Courgettes

Clause offers a growing range of pumpkins of different types and sizes, developed for supermarket specifications and farm shop sales.

KRATOS F1

Very large Halloween type with vigorous, healthy vines.

WARTY GOBLIN F1

Distinctive warty variety, medium sized with a hard shell.

TOSCA F1

High quality, very straight, smooth-skinned fruits. Open plant habit.



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 **CLAUSE**
VEGETABLE SEEDS

Reducing growers labour demand

Having already introduced some innovative automated vegetable machinery to the UK last year, Featherstone Machinery now have more labour-saving solutions to offer growers this year.

There will be 7 of their TTS automatic transplanters working in the UK this year, after a successful first year and a positive reception by growers. Jonathon Featherstone managing director says; "One of the UK's largest growers was the first to see the quality and benefits of our automatic transplanters and invest in one, and several other growers followed suit. One grower also put a repeat order in for 2 more transplanters after the installation.

"They are an absolute no brainer; they are working all over the world in different climates and conditions with some growers in the US running up to 15 of them. Their adaptability - in that every machine is custom built, including to each grower's tray type - is part of what makes these the most advanced automatic transplanter in the world. The reduction in labour is enormous as well as improving efficiency and quality of transplanting."

Another range of machines that will be



The De pietri herb/salad harvesters. (FR60).

arriving are the De pietri herb/salad harvesters. Jonathon says; "We have several De pietri harvesters arriving this spring, which again will be the first in the UK. This is one area where I have had a lot of enquiries, and growers were extremely impressed with the range of machines. "The model generating the most interest features a bunch

harvesting kit. Growers really struggled last year in regard to labour shortages and as I said to all of them, the proven solution is right here so why carry on with such labour-intensive methods?

"Now is the time to invest in automation, robotics and mechanical solutions; the labour situation is only going to get worse," says Jonathon.

ScanStone adding capacity

After moving their assembly line into a new state of the art building adjoined to existing buildings in late 2018, complete with air-sourced underfloor heating and all the necessary tools and ideal working

environment for the assemblers, ScanStone are adding capacity to allow the development and construction of their product range.

In the vegetable harvesting line, ScanStone is bringing their very own Haulm topper range to the market this year. This includes a front mounted version that can be coupled with a rear mounted machine giving a 3 bed topper. Alternately, the front piece can be adapted to go on the rear of the tractor for single bed topping. No guards or belts need to be changed unlike other machines; only the gearbox needs to be flipped.

Further construction work at the company's main site outside Forfar, is

currently underway and due to be completed in Spring, adding an additional paint drying facility, adjacent to the shotblasting area. Colder weather at busy production spells through the

workshop for overhauling second hand machines, offering buyers the option of warranties and out of season repairs.

William Skea, the front man of the ScanStone organisation commented;

"Our local customers often road their machines directly to the factory assured in the knowledge that our experts will deal with problems first time, as we have all the parts available to complete the job." This model is being rolled out and replicated across 5 newly established ScanStone owned depots across the UK and Europe, including the latest introduction of ScanStone France in Cheppy, Picardie, Northern France. Other depots include Brigg, Lakenheath and Kilkeel (NI).

"ScanStone has seen revenue increase by 28% on the previous year, pushing sales just short of £10M and has been extremely fortunate to be able to stay open and keep supporting the food industry amidst the travesty of the global pandemic that is Covid-19," says William.



ScanStone's new building.

winter has meant that the drying area has had to be increased and improved. With underfloor heating being installed and eventually an automated carrying rail, this should enable parts to be dried within 24 hours.

The building will also include a service



THE PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO REPLACE YOUR LABOUR

Labour availability and reliability has never been so challenging. We have the proven solutions to solve these challenges and reduce/replace your labour.

- Automatic transplanters
- Harvesting cabbage, leeks, fennel, herbs and salads
- Complete processing and packaging lines, and robotic/automated solutions for pack house
- Soil disinfection machine suitable for organic growing in glasshouses

**AUTOMATIC TRANSPLANTERS
IN STOCK**



*For more information and discuss the best solution for you contact
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