Distribution of the last three of the twelve pilot mowers has been completed. One has been sent to Statesville, NC. for demonstration to various mower dealers and the general public. Another is being prepared to go to Omaha, NE. The third one is located at Mimms, FL where a mower dealer is demonstrating it to several prospective customers, which are the county and city of Titusville Parks and Recreation Department.

The units that have been placed in the hands of the public have been run with some feed back already. The peripheral mower blade has already starting saving both fuel and time. Patent Seed Co. in Lakeland, Georgia found that the peripheral mower blade would out last the mower blades that was being used by up to thirty times. On a particular operation called “cutting ribbons” the mower blade has to operate very close to the ground. Until now the only mower blade that was acceptable is the finishing mower blade. The finishing mower blade has a strong air volume in order to discharge the grass. This air blast will suck dirt into the blade path damaging the blades and completely destroying them in only four to five acres. Patent Seed Co. received one of the pilot mowers on a trial run. They found that the peripheral mower blade would give them as much as one hundred fifty acres of service before requiring blade replacement. This mower also allowed them to travel much faster and there by saving time and finally saving fuel. Patent Seed Co. has already come back and taken delivery of three more mowers of the same type and size.

Several of the mowers were both on display and demonstrated at an equipment show in Lake Wales, Florida February 29, 2000. The seven-foot offset was used in the orange groves to demonstrate the ability of the peripheral mower to operate under the edge of the orange trees. One of the customers at the show made the statement that the peripheral mower was the first mower ever designed with this ability. He stated that he would like
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to get away from using herbicides to kill the grass, but has not been able to because no one had a mower that would operate under the trees without knocking the fruit off. But he stated that in order to accomplish the no-herbicide program would require a mower that would be able to cut the grass all the way to the trunk of the tree. This would require a mower of at least two-foot longer offset than the unit being demonstrated that day.

I accepted the challenge of the no-herbicide program and began to build the nine-foot offset mower that the program required. The unit is now completed and will be tested in the near future in the orange groves at Lake Wales, Florida. If this program proves successful, the peripheral mower blade can claim another environmentally friendly status.

The major manufacture, which has been contacted in the past, has failed to contact me about future plans to build the peripheral mower. However, due to public demand Peripheral Mowers Inc. has had to supply mowers on a one on one basis.

Peripheral Mowers Inc. is also working on other type of decks for the peripheral mower blade. A heavy-duty mulcher has been developed for the mulching of small limbs that are encountered in the operation of pine straw baling and in the orange groves after trimming of the trees has been accomplished. The operation of mulching these limbs instead of burning them not only helps to improve the air quality, but also saves time in having to bunch the limbs together.

The large batwing mower development is still on going and will be ready for testing this quarter. Some delay has been experienced due to the demand of the mounted mower, which is ever growing in popularity. The batwing that is now being built is seventeen feet in width and a length of less than eight feet. Due to the design of the mower deck the unit will be available in pull type, mounted, and even the possibility of a belly mounted mower. This will make the peripheral mower a desirable unit to fit many applications.

Even though it has been the winter quarter some testing has been completed lately. One test unit was last used on a test plot where the blades encounter small pieces of wood and debris. This determined that the blades are durable enough to withstand the material that is experienced on the roadsides across America. The blades held up very well with only a few slight bends that will be able to be straightened out. However the durability of the material that is now being used to build the peripheral mower blades has proven it's
self to be acceptable. The fact that the blades can be straightened is a plus to the performance of the peripheral mower blade.

Material along with E-mail has been sent to the names of the people, which are located at the various state highway maintenance complexes, that was supplied by New Horizons Inc. in Butte, Montana. We have had some inquiries from the states of Georgia and Florida, but not any from California, Texas, Minnesota. However, I plan on at a later date to contact these and more states highway departments to supply them with an up-to-date literature, especially on the batwing mower after performance data has been complied. The Florida and Georgia State highway department has already been supplied with the material and is planning on demonstration in the next quarter. These demonstrations will take place on highways close to Lake City, Florida and Moultrie, Georgia. The date and time has not been set so far.