

Inlon's Constant Improvement

Mulching is a key task in cotton stubble management. As one of the oldest Italian mulcher manufacturers, FALC has been making shredders for over 30 years and has a successful history with cotton mulching. Together with Australian distributor Inlon, FALC listened carefully to one cotton grower in Goondiwindi, QLD, which led to an even better machine.

Back in 2001, FALC developed the KRONOS Cotton Mulcher specifically for Australian growers. Even though it has been a popular mulcher, FALC and Inlon know that farming trends change and the best way to stay ahead of the market is to listen to growers and contractors in the field.

Norman Contract Farming, in Goondiwindi, mulch up to 10,000 hectares a year, so when David and Mark Norman contacted Inlon, the product development team were all ears.

The Normans had a long history contracting with the KRONOS mulcher since 1998. In 2016, they changed to another brand to get a 6-metre machine because, at the time, FALC did not make one. Mark Norman said, 'There's been an industry shift to cotton pickers being 6 metres wide. Ground compaction is a large concern so controlled traffic is a must. A 6-metre machine runs on the same track as the cotton picker for better traffic control, hence our decision to try the other brand. This was the second time we tried a brand other than FALC, but over the years, customers made it clear to us that the best mulch finish was from the KRONOS. We therefore approached FALC to see if they could produce a 6-metre machine.'

They found a company keen to listen to their ideas. Together with their local dealer, David Eglington, from Specialised Farm Machinery, Goondiwindi, FALC set about making the developments they sought. FALC had a 6.4 metre machine for many years, so 6 metres didn't seem like a big change. However, the KRONOS is already the heaviest constructed machine on the market, so cutting down to the essential width reduced the overall weight to allow the fitting of root cutters.

Belt life and durability were further improved with a new automatic belt tensioner with the idler wheel now supported on both sides with a new dual arm system.

Mark Norman said, 'Even though both brands in 6 metres have extra flails, the flails aren't the key to better mulch. Instead, it is the unique KRONOS overlapping comb shredder bars that makes the difference. They mulch aggressively through the cotton trash, consistently shredding the stalks and leaving the finest mulch. There's no other equal to FALC on the market. Accessibility, serviceability and mulch length are the key factors that keep me with the FALC product'. The shorter the mulch, the faster it decays, setting up the ground for the next cotton season. Longer trash results in clumps and problems with water run-off.

With a 73.5m/s flail tip speed and 330hp driveline, KRONOS delivers the ultimate power punch, and the 6.0 metre model covers 6 cotton beds with additional flails over the crop line. The KRONOS floating top hitch and ratchet height-adjustable wheels maintain a consistent cutting height.

The new FALC KRONOS 6.0m was launched in the 2017 season and turned into a key model for the season, confirming the power of listening and acting on the real experiences of Australian farmers. For further information, visit www.falc.com.au or call Inlon on 1800 772 407.



The FALC KRONOS in action