

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### AGROWPLOW'S UPGRADED #9 BLADE DOUBLES THE LIFESPAN OF ITS PREDECESSOR

#### Key Points

- The upgraded #9 blade is the result of eight months of research and development
- It features enhanced grade tungsten carbide tiles and rock teeth for greater durability
- Testing indicates it should have a lifespan up to 2-3 times greater than the previous blade
- The final stage of testing involves sending the blade to Australian farmers for their feedback
- The new blade will be available from late February 2019

A few dozen Australian farmers will soon be receiving something that will make their lives just a little bit easier. These farmers have been hand-picked to be a part of the research and development process for Agrowplow's upgraded #9 blade, and their feedback is the final leg of a journey that started almost eight months ago.

"We noticed that some our customers were replacing their plough blades pretty regularly," says Pav Melnichuk, Agrowplow's Purchasing & Parts Manager. "Great from a sales point of view, not so great for the farmer who's going through a handful of blades every other week. So we started looking at ways of toughening up the blade's design."

The upgraded blades have a number of features designed to increase their durability and lifespan. Key among them is the addition of three rock teeth across the leading edge of the blade. These teeth allow the blade to withstand numerous subsoil obstacles, such as rocks, tree stumps, and dirt clods.

"The rock teeth help the blade really slice through the soil," says Pav. "And because they can make short work of most obstacles, there's a lot less potential wear and tear on the blade."

The blade also features enhanced grade tungsten carbide tiles across the upper surfaces of the blade. These tiles are designed to catch the soil as it passes over the top of the blade, forming a protective barrier of earth over the top of the blade to further reduce wear.

The placement of the hardfacing has also been redesigned in order to present a narrower profile to prevent soil inversion.

“We’re really happy with the new design,” says Pav. “Our own testing indicates these enhancements should add as much as two to three times to the life of the blade depending on soil conditions.”

“We’re sending the upgraded blades to a handful of farmers throughout Western Australia this February as part of the final stage of testing. As much as we can test the upgrades here, there’s nothing that can replace the feedback from farmers who can really put the blade through its paces.”

“It’s a bit late to be a Christmas present,” laughs Pav, “but we reckon it’ll be a welcome delivery anyway. We want our customers to plough for longer and need fewer blades to get the job done. Basically, a tougher blade means happier customers.”

“This is about making sure we’re doing right by our customers,” says Agrowplow Director Shannon McNab. “We’ve built a reputation of making machines that are strong, durable, and reliable. This blade upgrade helps us to make sure we keep delivering on that promise.”

“All the latest and greatest innovations these days are all about electronics and connectedness - building in wifi, Bluetooth, and batteries. That stuff is great, but sometimes it’s good to have a simple engineering solution to a simple question: how do we make our blades tougher and last longer?”

The upgraded #9 blade supersedes the previous design and is expected to be available for purchase in late February. It is suitable for machines compatible with the #9 shank or hybrid shank models. An equivalent upgrade for the #8 blade is currently in development and is expected to be released before mid-year.

Agrowplow is a part of Davimac Group, an Australian-owned company that designs and manufactures agricultural equipment, specialising in chaser bins, ploughs, and seed drills. The company’s production facilities are located in Molong, in the Central West of NSW, and its products are sold throughout Australia and Canada.

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