

Adding or Changing a Blocking Plate on a Herd® GT-77 Spreader



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This publication describes how to add or change a blocking plate on a Herd® GT-77 spreader, which allows the user to dispense the correct amount of fire ant bait.

Three blocking plate sizes are recommended by the Herd® manufacturer for fire ant baits currently approved for usage in the Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine (FIFAQ), including #0, #1, and #2 (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Herd® spreader blocking plates: #2 (*left image*), #1 (*center image*), and #0 (*right image*). The center hole is where bait drops from the spreader. The four outer holes are used to position the blocking plate on the spreader. The #2 has the smallest diameter hole at 0.28 in (7 mm), followed by the #1 at 0.35 in (9 mm) and the #0 at 0.39 in (10 mm).

The Herd® manufacturer recommends different blocking plates depending on the fire ant bait product used:

➤ #0 or #1 plates for:

- Amdro® Pro Fire Ant Bait
- Award® Fire Ant Bait
- Distance® Fire Ant Bait
- Extinguish® Professional Fire Ant Bait

➤ #1 or #2 plates for:

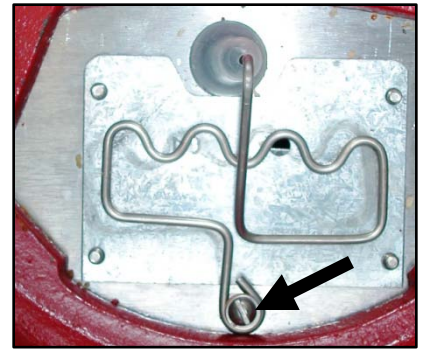
- Extinguish® Plus
- Distance® Fire Ant Bait

Steps to Add or Change the Blocking Plate

Step 1: Slide the lid off of the top of the spreader. The lid is held in place by a spring, so be careful not to pinch your fingers when sliding off.

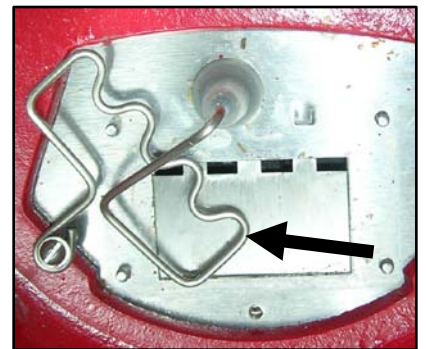


Step 2: Look inside the spreader and at the bottom locate the bushing screw (see black arrow). Remove the screw with a flathead screwdriver.



Step 3: Slide the stainless steel agitator wire (black arrow) to the side. If a blocking plate is already installed under the agitator wire, then pull the plate off of the four corner screws, being careful not to bend the agitator wire.

Note: You can now see four openings on the spreader bottom. The blocking plate serves to cover three of these openings, so that only one opening can dispense bait. Otherwise, too much bait would be released.



Step 4: Slide the desired blocking plate back over the four screws and make sure the plate is flat on the spreader bottom. The notched side of the blocking plate must face away from the bushing screw for the plate to go on correctly. Put the bushing screw into the hole and partially turn it into the hole with a screwdriver.



Step 5: Look underneath the outside of the spreader between the four-bladed fan and the underside of the metal hopper (Fig. 2). You should see a small flathead screw above the fan with a stainless steel wire on both sides of the screw (Fig. 2). The stainless steel wire is the lower part of the agitator wire shown in Step 3. If the wire is not centered over the screw on top of the fan blade, the agitator wire will not move when the fan is turning and bait will not be dispensed. From our experience, the lower part of the agitator wire may become disconnected when performing Step 3 above. If the lower agitator wire is properly positioned, then finish tightening the bushing screw in Step 4. If it is not, you will have to maneuver the agitator wire inside the hopper (see Step 3) until it is properly centered on the screw above the fan blade before tightening the bushing screw in Step 4.



Fig. 2. *Left Photo:* Area between Herd® spreader hopper and four-bladed fan where stainless steel agitator wire connects to the screw above the fan blades. *Right Photo:* Close-up image of agitator wire properly positioned with the screw in the middle of the wire hook.

Step 6: Move the control handle on the outside of the spreader back and forth (see yellow two-sided arrow). Pushing the control handle towards the hopper closes the gap beneath the block plate and shuts off the release of bait, while pulling the handle away from the hopper opens the gap and allows bait release.



Step 7: While moving the control handle (see Step 6), watch the hole in the blocking plate (Fig. 3). The hole must be completely open to properly dispense bait and completely closed to stop bait from exiting the hopper. A partially closed hole will not properly dispense bait and may result in blockage. It is best to become familiar with the handle direction needed to fully open and close the gap beneath the blocking plate while the spreader is empty of bait. In addition, it is a good idea to make sure the hole is fully opened or fully closed when the control handle is moved to the opened or closed position, respectively.



Fig. 3. *Left Photo:* Blocking plate with gap beneath fully opened. *Center Photo:* Blocking plate with gap beneath partially closed. *Right Photo:* Blocking plate with gap beneath fully closed.

Acknowledgments: We thank Dr. Donna Fare (USDA-ARS National Arboretum), Dr. David Oi (USDA-ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology), and Anne-Marie Callcott (USDA-APHIS Imported Fire Ant Section – Gulfport Laboratory) for providing external reviews of this publication.

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Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide-related recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication. Use of trade, brand, or active ingredient names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar and suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

