

**bluebob**<sup>®</sup>

# Six-row weeding in sugar beets with a self-navigating robot





Detail of an inrow weeding tool

## About the robot

- The next generation of the **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> is a six-row, fully electric and autonomously navigating field robot for mechanical weed control in sugar beets between the first two leaves and canopy closure.
- The **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> weeds between the rows with static weeding tools, and in the rows with powered weeding tools – this leads to an almost complete elimination of the weeds.
- The robot determines the position of the plants in the rows and classifies them as weed or beet. It can differentiate between weeds and beets in real time at a very early stage of plant development.

## Good to know

- The **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> project started in 2019. After testing the concept of in-row weeding with a first prototype working on one row in 2020, the project has reached the next milestone in April 2021: a six row weeding robot that can weed the whole field.
- The project is being realised in cooperation with the German Fraunhofer Development Centre for X-ray Technology EZRT and the French AgTech company Naïo Technologies.
- Strube's vision is making sugar beet cultivation more sustainable and environmentally friendly while being profitable at the same time. The **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> is one of Strube's commitment for this future oriented farming.
- With its mechanical weeding tools, the **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> is a true alternative to chemical weed control.
- In contrast to chemical weeding methods, **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> avoids growth depression and stress caused by herbicide application.
- Mechanical weeding additionally improves soil aeration and makes nutrients more available for the plants.
- The weeding performance of the **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> is around half a hectare per hour and the autonomy of the batteries allows a continuous shift of eight hours.

Detail of an interrow weeding tool

## Do you already know the BlueBlog?



Look forward to interesting content on the topic of sustainability at Strube.

The **BlueBob**<sup>®</sup> is also part of the blog: [strube.net/blog/en](https://strube.net/blog/en)



## Do you have further questions?

Please contact us



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