

# STRADDLE FORK



## The Modern Way to Move Crops

Straddle Fork introduces a new harvesting and transporting system to tree and row crop operations. Crops move from the orchard or field faster with a minimum of manual labor. Empty bins are mechanically distributed in an orderly manner to conveniently serve pickers. Removal of full bins and loading of highway vehicles is also fully mechanized. Crops arrive at the packing or processing plant much fresher and at a lower cost. Manual carrying of field boxes is eliminated. Pickers spend more of their time and efforts picking. The equipment and manpower needed to serve pickers is reduced to a minimum and is utilized at high efficiency. Trees, roots and drainage systems are protected. These advantages can be summarized as:

- **Faster Harvesting**
- **Lower Cost**
- **Lower Investment**
- **Fresher Crop**
- **Less Effort**
- **Healthier Orchards**

## How the System Works

These harvesting advantages result from a combination of features that make up the new system.

The standard bulk bins, that measure 47 inches square, 32 inches high, with 17 times the capacity of conventional field boxes, have a capacity of 935 lbs. of fruit or produce. Straddle Fork picks-up, stacks and secures 4 such full bins within its frame and delivers them to the roadside for automatic pick-up by Strad-O-Lift trailers. It is also capable of stacking and carrying 8 empty bins. All loads are moved in a raised position permitting Straddle Fork to straddle other bins or crops up to 38 inches high x 59 inches wide. Straddle Fork places empty bins in a row at spots convenient to the picker. It then backs up over the row to pick-up full bins for a return trip to the roadside where the 4 high stacks are placed in a 32 bin row for pick-up by a Strad-O-Lift trailer. The Straddle Fork, with extended forks, then picks-up 8 more empty bins for delivery to the field, repeating a cycle which enables 1 Straddle Fork to serve up to 45 pickers.

This efficient linear handling system operates within a tree clearance of only 8 feet. It eliminates damage to trees, roots, drip irrigation systems and drainage furrows.

*(Top & Middle) Straddling over partially filled bins, the Straddle Fork begins to stack full bins enroute to loading area.*

*(Bottom) Straddle Fork stacks bins 4 high in a 32 bin row for pick-up by a Strad-O-Lift trailer. The Straddle Fork then picks-up 8 empty bins for delivery to the field.*

