

# CHRISTIE & CO

FROM DREAM TO MAINSTREAM

## PRESS RELEASE

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## As Glyphosate Debate Intensifies, LASCO Highlights Electric Weed Control Alternative for Modern Farming

*The Lightning Weeder™ supports long-term soil stewardship while helping growers expand weed management strategies.*

**MEDFORD, MN (May 2026)**— As public debate surrounding glyphosate-based herbicides intensifies following renewed national attention from recent Wall Street Journal coverage, farmers are increasingly facing pressure to balance productivity with long-term land stewardship, herbicide resistance challenges, and evolving public expectations surrounding agriculture. At the same time, herbicide-resistant weeds continue creating costly operational challenges for growers across the country.

The growing debate comes at a time when even major global agriculture companies are racing to develop new solutions to combat herbicide-resistant “superweeds,” a challenge recently highlighted in *The Wall Street Journal*<sup>1</sup>. Industry reports estimate herbicide-resistant weeds cost U.S. agriculture billions annually, while consumer scrutiny surrounding pesticide residues in food and soil continues to intensify<sup>2</sup>. In response to these shifting conversations, [LASCO](#) is highlighting its Lightning Weeder™, an electric weed control system designed to reduce reliance on traditional chemical weed management practices.

For generations, chemical herbicides have played a major role in maintaining clean and productive fields. However, modern agriculture is increasingly placing greater emphasis on soil vitality, integrated weed management, and sustainable long-term production practices that work with the land rather than against it.

Rather than applying chemicals directly to the field, the Lightning Weeder™ uses a patented Electric Discharge System (EDS) that control weeds electrically through direct plant contact. When weeds touch the applicator bar, electrical energy rapidly evaporates moisture within the plant, disrupting growth while leaving the soil structure undisturbed. Because the electrical current travels through the plant itself, there is no chemical residue left behind and minimal disruption to microbial activity beneath the soil.

“Farmers today are under pressure from every direction — rising input costs, herbicide resistance, regulatory scrutiny, and changing consumer expectations,” said Kevin Olson of LASCO Manufacturing.

“The Lightning Weeder™ gives growers another tool to help manage weeds while reducing dependence on traditional chemical-only approaches.”

As agriculture evolves toward more diversified and precision-based farming practices, technologies like the Lightning Weeder™ are gaining attention from growers looking to expand weed management strategies beyond traditional chemical-only approaches. Built for modern agricultural operations, the Lightning Weeder™ combines precision application with energy-based weed control technology designed to help growers reduce soil disruption while supporting long-term productivity and sustainable land management. LASCO believes electric weed control can play an important role in the future of integrated weed management and precision agriculture.

The Lightning Weeder™ applicator system is hydraulically controlled for precision height adjustment, while electrical output is managed through an operator control panel. LASCO has also engineered the system with multiple safety protections, including interlock systems and shielded components designed to support safe operation in field conditions.

As conversations surrounding chemical weed control continue evolving across agriculture, food production, and public health sectors, technologies like the Lightning Weeder™ are becoming part of a broader industry discussion around precision agriculture, soil stewardship, and diversified weed management strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> The Wall Street Journal, <https://www.wsj.com/business/pesticide-giant-syngenta-readies-new-weapon-against-superweeds-5fe858be?utm>

<sup>2</sup> USDA/FDA [pesticide residue monitoring programs and ongoing public discussions surrounding glyphosate and agricultural chemical exposure.](#)

#### **About LASCO:**

LASCO develops a chemical-free weed control system that gives farmers reliable tools to reduce complexity, restore soil vitality, and diminish chemical dependence. The LASCO Lightning Weeder uses an electric discharge system (EDS) to facilitate weed control while also ensuring zero damage to crops.

For more information about LASCO Lightning Weeder, visit: [www.lightningweeder.com](http://www.lightningweeder.com).