



Packer compacts ground ahead of planter row units to improve seed-to-soil contact.

Front-Mount, Rubber-Tired Packer Made From Car Tires

"It packs and levels soil in front of our tractor as we plant, which results in better seed placement and germination," says Loren Halvorson, Galesburg, N. Dak., about the rubber tired packer he made from old 15-in. car tires.

Halvorson mounts the packer on front of his Deere 4430 tractor when using his Deere MaxEmerge 8-row mounted planter. Like the planter row units, the tires are spaced 30 in. apart and are mounted on vertical standards that are U-bolted to a 4 by 4 toolbar. The toolbar attaches to a mounting bracket that bolts onto the front and sides of the tractor,

and is raised by a single hydraulic cylinder.

"We designed it mainly for planting edible beans, but we've found that it also improves planting of corn and soybeans," says Halvorson. "We used it for the first time last year and harvested 100 to 200 lbs. more edible beans per acre. Most of our soil is fine, loose sand. The main advantage is that this unit packs the sand down uniformly so that seed is placed in moister soil.

"Commercial spiral packers designed to be pulled behind are available, but they sell for \$15,000 to \$30,000 depending on the size. We spent less than \$1,000 to build this unit."

The toolbar is filled with sand for added weight. He mounted new wheel rims on the tires. He drilled holes in the standards to weld on the spindles.

The front-mount packer has other advantages, says Halvorson. "The tube is filled with sand and the extra weight helps counter balance the weight of the 3-pt. planter. The packer also serves as a guide when planting along fence or tree lines. And it helps hold the tractor straight in the field."

Many of the parts Halvorson used to build the packer are also used on an edible bean recutter that he has been building and selling for years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Loren Halvorson, Box 40, Galesburg, N. Dak. 58035 (ph 701 488-2790).



Mueller pulls rubber-tired roller behind tractor when mowing. Weed seeds with burs stick to wheels and are collected in hopper for disposal.

Rubber-Tired "Weed Seed Getter" Picks Seeds Off The Ground

Robert Mueller, Kimball, Neb., built a 3-pt. mounted, rubber tired "weed seed getter" that uses seven 15-in. tires to pick up weed seeds from an area that was planted to native grass. He pulls the rig behind his IH Cub tractor, which is equipped with a belly-mounted mower.

"I use it when I mow to pick up weed seed-containing burs (such as puncture vine, sand burs, buffalo bur, and cockleburs) so they can't germinate later," says Mueller. "Native grass was planted next to a local retirement home where I work. I didn't want to use herbicides because they could harm some of the grasses. The weed seeds are quite hard and have barbs on them so they stick to the tire treads."

The tires mount side-by-side on a steel drum (an old hot water heater tank). A 1-in. dia. steel shaft runs through the drum and is supported by wood bearings at each end that are secured to a metal frame. A metal scraper that rides against the tires scrapes seeds off into a metal collection bin.

"It doesn't get all of the burs but it gets a lot of them," says Mueller, who also mounted metal scrapers and buckets on the tractor's front tires. One problem he had with the roller is that whenever he turned short the tires would move to one end of the drum, which made it harder to turn. To solve the problem he now raises the 3-pt. whenever he turns. "A pull-type model would eliminate the problem. However, then I wouldn't be able to raise the rig at all," notes Mueller.



Weed seeds are disposed of through hole in center of hopper.



Mueller also put weed seed collecting buckets on tractor's front wheels.

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"Up And Over" Pickup Ramp Hauls Two ATV's At A Time

You can carry two ATVs at a time on a pickup with this new "up and over" ramp from ATV Systems, Two Harbors, Minn.

"It eliminates the need to haul a second ATV on a trailer," says inventor Donald Jones.

Ramps are available to fit both shortbed and longbed pickups. Both models extend about 18 in. above the pickup cab. The shortbed version has an extension that fits into the pickup's receiver hitch.

The ramps are painted black and bolt to the pickup bed. Other colors are available for an additional fee.

The ramp system for longbed pickups sells for \$325 plus S&H; for shortbed pickups it's \$550 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ATV Systems, 3142 Hwy. 61, Two Harbors, Minn. 55616 (ph 218 834-3117).

Ramps hold two 4-wheelers, with the front wheels on one machine resting above the cab. On shortbed pickups (lower left) ramp extension fits into receiver hitch.

