



Stackable planter units form crop towers that allow for tremendous production, even in small areas.

Plant Towers Great For High Value Crops

You can grow 5 to 6 times more plants per square foot with less water and less fertilizer using the new Agro-Towers stackable planter units. Agro-Tower units form crop towers that allow for tremendous production, even in small areas, says Lee Blevins, who developed the towers with Greg Powell and Robin Marks.

"They're made from a special UV-resistant plastic and can be used with conventional soil or for hydroponic production," says Blevins.

Each section has 6 planting ports, 4 in. in diameter and 10 in. apart. Individual sections are 20 in. in diameter and 8 in. deep and nest for easy shipping and storage. The pots can be stacked to whatever height is comfortable. A 6-unit tower with 36 planting ports stands about 4 ft. tall when filled.

Blevins estimates that the towers conserve 80 to 90 percent of water and 60 to 80 percent of fertilizer normally needed for horizontal planting. Excess water flows through from one section to another, thanks to drain holes in each unit.

"With these towers, you can grow on asphalt, if necessary," says Blevins. "They're ideal for strawberries, vegetables, herbs, flowers or whatever."

Blevins estimates that an acre of towers could support nearly 136,000 strawberry plants or the equivalent of 5.6 acres of traditionally planted berry plants. But the big advantage of the Agro-Tower system is that the crop is so much easier to harvest.



Each section has six planting ports, 4 in. in diameter and 10 in. apart.

Agro-Tower units come in terra cotta and black, with white available only as a special order. Cost is \$59.95 plus shipping for a pack of 6 black units or \$69.95 for 6 terra cotta. Discounts are available for pallet loads with 96 units to a pallet.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lee Blevins, Box 1026, Atascadero, Calif. 93422 (ph 805 461-1761; E-mail: leeblevins@thegrid.net).

Pastel-Colored Ornamental Corn

FARM SHOW spotted a new kind of ornamental corn in Park Seed nursery's Spring 2002 catalog. The corn comes pastel-colored in soft shades of mauve/pink, green, blue, gold and bronze. The decorative ears of this extra early (85 to 90-day), dent flour variety reach 8 to 10 in. long.

"A lot of women like this corn for display in their homes," says the company.

One packet sells for \$2.25 plus S&H; two packets for \$4.00 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Geo. W. Park Seed, Inc., 1 Parkton Ave., Greenwood, S.C. 29647 (ph 800 845-3369; fax 800 275-9941; E-mail:



Unusual corn comes in soft shades of mauve/pink, green, blue, and gold. info@parkseed.com; Website: www.parkseed



Steven Kling fills up old manure spreaders as he chops wood. He parks the filled spreaders at the edge of a field. Apron and beaters have been removed.

"Wood Pile On Wheels"

If you burn a lot of wood you know how much work goes into handling it. After it's chopped, the wood has to be stacked and later loaded up again to haul to the stove.

Steven Kling of Taylor, Wis., decided to put his wood pile on wheels, using seven old manure spreaders with the apron and beaters removed. He leaves the back end of the spreaders completely open.

Kling got the spreaders for free, or next to nothing, from neighbors. He fills them up as he chops wood and parks the filled spreaders at the edge of a field. When he needs wood in his home or shop, he simply pulls a loaded spreader into his yard.

"This system eliminates a lot of work,"

says Kling. "Our house has a wood furnace in the basement, with a chute going up through a window. We simply back the spreader up to the chute. Spreaders are ideal for this use because they have big tires that can handle a big load. Each spreader holds about three face cords of wood.

"Another advantage of this idea is that the wood is up off the ground so it dries better."

Kling's collection of spreaders includes Deere, New Holland, and Patz. "The aprons and beaters were shot on them so they weren't worth much when I got them," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steven S. Kling, W15307 Wilson Rd., Taylor, Wis. 54659 (ph 715 662-5053).



When they need wood, the Klings back a spreader up to their home and drop wood down a chute that goes to a wood furnace in the basement.

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