



Deere's line of tractors from 1918 to 1994 was on display near Berne, Indiana, last July. There were 98 tractors in all, including some that are considered very rare.

Deere Gathering Features Nearly Every Model Ever Made

A unique herd of Deere gathered in Berne, Indiana, this past July. Nearly every model of Deere tractor made from 1918 to 1994 was on display. Perhaps most amazing was that none traveled farther than 30 miles, and most could be driven to the meet.

"We ended up with 98 tractors in all," recalls Mark Habegger of Berne Hardware Co., a John Deere dealer. "The only model we missed was the 8560."

Rare tractors included two Waterloo boys and an 8020 4-wheel drive. Only 100 of the latter were built. An even rarer specimen was the model 62. According to Habegger, only 78 were ever built. He also had a couple of GP standards with variations from the different years they were made, as well as a couple of D's, one on steel and one on rubber.

"We lined them up on a lot next to the dealership with just enough room for a golf

cart or Gator to carry handicapped visitors through," says Habegger. "We had between five and six thousand people come through the exhibit. There were people from 19 states, the District of Columbia and even from the Philippines."

Habegger began lining up tractors about a year prior to the show, which coincided with a local festival. They found the tractors through discussions with employees and

customers. Only row crop and 4-wheel units were sought, not small utility or garden tractors. Although the event was a success, don't plan on seeing the lineup next year. The dealership has no plans for a repeat.

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Do-It-Yourself Rhubarb Leaf Stepping Stones

Here's an idea for some interesting concrete stepping stones you can make for walkways or decorating around landscaping or gardens, from Marlyn Cutting-Waddell, Sperling, Manitoba.

For supplies, you'll need coarse Redicrete or Sackrete, water, a 2 or 3-gal. bucket for mixing, rubber gloves, wire mesh, some colored chalk-line chalk (if you'd like to tint the stones), and a plastic tarp or drop cloth.

You'll also need one good quality rhubarb leaf for every stone you want to make. She says leaves from other plants with heavy veins (like burdock or a large leafed hosta) can be used, too, but she likes rhubarb because they're plentiful and larger than most others.

To start, put plastic down on your work surface and then lay out a rhubarb leaf with the veins up. Make sure there are no wrinkles in the plastic and that the leaf lies flat. Next, cut a piece of wire mesh that covers the area of the stone where you'll step. Then mix the concrete with just enough water to make a very dry mix.

"The cement mixture should stay in a ball when you squeeze it together," she says. "If

the cement slides off the leaf, your mixture is too wet." One bag of concrete mix will make about three stones.

"If you are adding chalk to color the stone, mix it in with the water before adding the concrete mix," she says.

Once you have the leaf spread the way you want it and the concrete mixed to the right thickness, start applying it by hand to the leaf. She recommends leaving about half an inch of leaf sticking out from under the concrete, so the veins run all the way to the edge of the stone. When you've applied about 1 1/2 in. of concrete to the leaf, press in the mesh and then add more concrete, until the stone is 2 1/2 to 3 in. thick.

Once it has the shape you want and is the right thickness, cover it with plastic to keep it from drying too quickly. Cutting-Waddell says she leaves hers two or three days before removing the top plastic.

Any leaf material that won't come off the stone can be left to dry up and then brushed away with a paint brush.

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Concrete stepping stone is imprinted with the design of a rhubarb leaf. It can be used to make walkways or for decorating around landscaping or gardens. Chalk can be added to color the stone.



To start, lay out a rhubarb leaf with the veins up. Wire mesh is embedded in the concrete for added strength.



Once the concrete is mixed to the right thickness it can be applied by hand to the leaf.