

The “Best” Bee For Fruit Trees

Mason Orchard Bees are found throughout North America but they’re more abundant in some areas than others.

Researchers say they’re better pollinators than honey bees for fruit trees and berries because they become active earlier in the season and they have hairier bodies that carry more pollen. They’re also very docile and hardly ever sting unless severely provoked.

Researchers say you can boost Mason populations by supplying nest holes for them. One way to do so is to drill holes 4 to 6 in. deep and 1/4 to 3/8 inch in diameter in a pine or fir 4 by 4 using a brad-point for a smooth hole. You can also use containers filled with large drinking straws folded in half. The nests should be positioned for morning sunlight with some protection from rain.

Another nest alternative is to buy an orchard bee house from Kinsman Co., Pipersville, Penn. Kinsman imports nesting kits from the Oxford Bee Co. in England. Small kits contain 32 nesting tubes for \$11.95, while the large Orchard Bee nest box contains 105 tubes for \$31.95. USDA re-



You can boost Mason Orchard Bee populations by supplying nest holes for them. One way to do that is with an orchard bee house nesting kit, which contains paper-lined nesting tubes.

searchers have found that the Orchard Bees prefer the smooth 6-in. paper lined tubes to holes drilled in wood blocks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kinsman Company M.O., Box 428, Pipersville, Penn. 18947 (ph 800 733-4129; email: Kinsco@kinsmangarden.com; website: www.kinsmangarden.com).



Charlie Prickett, Wellington, Alabama, built a ladder to fit his front-end loader, allowing him to change outdoor light fixtures and do other high-reach jobs.

High Reaching Ladder, Boom Mount On Front-End Loader

Most 86-year-olds aren’t out looking for a way to climb higher than an extension ladder, but Charlie Prickett isn’t “most” 86-year-olds.

The Wellington, Alabama man built a ladder to fit a front-end loader so he can change outdoor light fixtures and do other high-reach jobs. He also put a hook on the end of the ladder to use it as a lift boom.

Prickett runs ropes from the bucket to the hydraulic controls on his tractor to raise or lower the bucket, so he can use the ladder when he’s working alone.

He welded the ladder from 1 by 1 1/2 steel tubing he found in a junkyard, and added a handrail that also serves as bracing for the ladder. The ladder reaches 25 ft. up in the air.

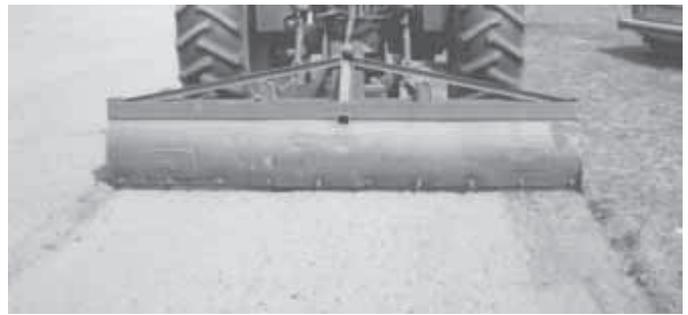
It attaches with pins to a piece of angle iron that’s bolted to the bucket. The braces bolt to ears on the top of the bucket. He says it takes only 20 to 25 minutes to mount it on the bucket.

Prickett says it took the better part of a day to weld the ladder together.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charlie W. Prickett, 1461 Wellington Rd., Wellington, Alabama 36279 (ph 256 892-3752).



Ladder reaches 25 ft. up in the air. Prickett runs ropes from bucket to hydraulic controls on his tractor to raise or lower the bucket, so he can use the ladder when he’s working alone.



“It’ll make a 2-in. cut through packed gravel with no problem,” says Marvin Bauer, who built his own 9-ft. wide, 3-pt. mounted scraper.

Home-Built Box Scraper Makes Driveway “Runway Smooth”

When he needed to level a newly graded yard, Marvin Bauer, Hastings, Minnesota, went to his shop and made himself a box scraper.

“I put it together in about a day,” he says. Bauer used a 10-in. I-beam as a main frame, and added a 3 point hitch and some 3/16-in. thick plate steel for sides. For the scraper blade itself, he used a blade from a highway department snowplow. “I bought three used snow plows for \$30 each, so I already had them on hand when I decided to make this,” he says. “I cut them apart and used flat steel and one of the blades to make the scraper.”

He decided to use a turnbuckle for the top link so he could adjust the height of the blade.

Bauer’s scraper is 9 ft. wide and about 18 in. deep from front to back. Mostly due to the I-beam, it weighs about 1,500 lbs. It’ll make a 2-in. cut through packed gravel with no problem when used behind his 1850 Oliver. “It’ll grade the roughest driveway ‘runway smooth’ in one or two passes.

“It’s great for scraping the driveway and



He used a 10-in. I-beam as the main frame and added a 3-pt. hitch and 3/16-in. thick plate steel for the sides. The blade is from a highway department snowplow.

filling in ruts and holes,” Bauer says. “You could level anything with it.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Bauer, 10215 190th Street East, Hastings, Minn. 55033 (ph 651 437-5068).



Shop-built, hydraulic-operated man-lift is attached to an old 3-pt. bale mover. Steel bucket mounts at end of 12-ft. boom.

Man-Lift Built On Old Bale Mover

Ricky Stockman, Concordia, Missouri, had a local fabrication shop turn an old 3-pt. bale mover into a hydraulic man-lift.

“The frame on our old bale mover was heavy and very well built so I figured it would support the weight,” says Stockman.

He took his idea to Greg Mueller, Mueller Fabrication, Higginsville, Missouri, and he did the rest.

Mueller attached a 10-ft. long, 6 by 6-in. square tube to the frame to make a mast. Then he hinged a 12-ft. length of the same tubing at the top of the first. On the end of the hinged boom, he mounted a steel bucket made of sheet metal on an angle iron frame.

Stockman salvaged a hydraulic cylinder and controls from an old log splitter and uses them to raise and lower his boom. The controls are mounted on the bucket, so the per-

son in the bucket can work alone.

He says materials and shop work totaled up to about \$2,000. So while it wasn’t cheap, it was considerably less expensive than anything he could have bought ready-made.

“Our first use was painting my parents’ house. We were going to hire a crew to paint it, but because we had this, we decided we could do the work ourselves, at a savings of at least \$1,000,” he says. Since then, he’s used it to do building and roof repairs.

He lowers the tractor’s 3-pt. to the ground while it’s in use. “Attached to the tractor hitch, it doesn’t need any additional stabilizers,” Stockman says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ricky Stockman, RR 3, Box 279, Concordia, Mo. 64020 (ph 660 641-4199).