

Hand-Held Tree Planter

You can plant a lot of tree seedlings in a short amount of time with this new hand-held tree planter.

Designed by Mike Zimmer of Shawnee, Kansas, the Wedgie Planter consists of a 1-in. dia. pipe with a T-handle on top and a wedge at the bottom, with a foot pad just above the wedge. You push the wedge into the ground with the foot pad and then drop a seedling into the hole. Then to seal the seedling in place, you position the wedge 2 in. behind the hole and drive the wedge into the ground again, pulling the handle toward you to seal the roots and then pushing the handle toward the seedling to seal the soil against the seedling. The newly created hole will serve as a water reservoir to provide the seedling's roots with moisture.

"The wedge-shaped design really does a

good job of penetrating hard, rocky soil," says Zimmer. "The wedge is longer than a spade and easier to handle than a full shovel. In more rugged ground conditions, you can use both feet and a pogo stick motion to transfer your weight to the wedge. The T-handle has rubber grips on it for extra comfort."

Three models are available. The Wedgie Junior is designed for planting 1-year-old seedlings and has a wedge that's 2 in. wide by 8 in. long, with a 12-in. long T-handle, a step length of 10 in., and an overall height of 40 in. It weighs 8 lbs. Sells for \$45.95 plus \$19.95 S&H.

The second model, called the Wedgie Spud, is identical to the Wedgie Junior except that it has a single handle instead of a T-handle. It sells for \$29.95 plus \$19.95 S&H.

The third model, called the Ultimate

Wedgie, is designed for planting 3-year-old seedlings and has a wedge that's 5 in. wide by 7 in. long, with an 18-in. long T-handle, a step length of 12 in., and an overall height of 43 1/2 in. It weighs 14 lbs. Sells for \$69.95 plus \$19.95 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wedgie c/o Mike Zimmer, 13805 W. 56th Terrace, Shawnee, Kansas 66216 (ph 913 962-7892; sales @wedgieplanter.com; www.wedgieplanter.com).

Wedgie Planter consists of a 1-in. dia. pipe with a T-handle on top and a wedge at the bottom, with a foot pad just above the wedge.



Spade-Type Tree Planter

Raymond Witges, Scheller, Ill., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a tree planter that he built using the sweep off an old Deere field cultivator.

"It's built rugged and will penetrate tough soil. It's also a versatile tool. I've used it to do everything from planting trees to digging up sweet potatoes or even weeding out dandelions," says Witges.

The tool measures 44 in. high and consists of a thick metal rod with a 4-in. wide oval handle at the top and a 1 3/4-in. wide by 9 1/2-in. long sweep welded to the bottom. A 1-in. wide, 9 1/2-in. long angle iron foot pad is welded onto the rod just above the sweep. He used a torch to heat up the sweep and take the temper out so that he could hammer it flat.

"I step on the foot pad to dig a hole, then place the seedling in it. Then I make a second hole about 3 in. behind the first one and push the handle forward to close the dirt firmly around the seedling. I've had outstanding results with tree survival," says Witges.

He has used the tool to plant seed corn in a planted field with skips. "The corn came up wonderfully," he says. He has also used the tool to plant strawberries, sweet potato plants, muskmelons and watermelons.

To remove dandelions, he digs down about 2 in. from the plant and then pulls back "until I hear a cracking sound in the roots. Then



Raymond Witges built this tree planter (left) using the sweep off an old Deere field cultivator. A 9 1/2-in. angle iron foot pad is welded onto the rod just above the sweep.

I reach down and pull the plant out."

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Michael Bryan cut down a 4-row, 38-in. corn header off another Gleaner combine that he bought from a neighbor, converting it to a 4-row, 30-in. header.



Narrowed Up Header Fits 30-In. Rows

Michael Bryan needed a 4-row, 30-in. header for his Gleaner combine. The Warren, Ind., farmer got it by cutting down a 4-row, 38-in. corn header off another Gleaner combine that he bought from his neighbor.

"I farm a small acreage. My neighbor hadn't used the header for six years. The conversion took a good deal of time but it paid off. I used it last fall with no trouble at all."

Bryan says he looked at the header for a long time, trying to formulate a plan to convert the header with the least amount of work.

He started by leaving the outside rows intact on the frame, then removed the two inside rows and cut 1 ft. off the frame on each side. He then moved the two inside rows in 4 in. on each side, and moved the outside rows in 1 ft. on each side. He also had to narrow up the snouts by reshaping the tin. Then he welded the frame back together.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael Bryan, 9973 S. 700W., Warren, Ind. 46792 (ph 260 468-2039).



Arthur Moulton built this self-propelled wheelbarrow out of an old Ariens snowblower and junk parts. It's shown with the wheelbarrow bucket removed.

Self-Propelled Wheelbarrow

"I built this self-propelled wheelbarrow out of an old Ariens snowblower and junk parts. It comes in handy for a variety of jobs," says Arthur Moulton, Alton, N.H.

The 3-wheeled carrier is powered by a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine mounted on a 1972 Ariens snowblower. The single caster wheel on front is located about 4 ft. ahead of the snowblower's rear wheels. In between is a U-shaped metal frame made from old bed rails, with 2-ft. high rectangular "holders" on front and back. A dump-style, sideways-mounted wheelbarrow bucket can be bolted to the floor.

He unbolted the impeller and housing from the snowblower, keeping the handlebars, frame, and transmission. He replaced the snowblower's original 6 hp electric start engine with a 5 hp, rope start Briggs & Stratton. The snowblower's wheels were replaced with bigger, 12-in. high wheels off a Bolens riding mower, and the straight drive axle was replaced with the mower's chain-drive differential in order to make it easier to steer with the caster wheel on front.

He then made a metal frame that goes on in place of the housing with two bolts. The front part of the frame attaches to the single

caster wheel. The wheel is supported by the forks, spindle and bearings off an old bicycle.

"I'm well pleased with how it turned out," says Moulton. "It didn't cost much to build - I spent more money on welding rods than I did on anything else.

"Most of the time I run it in first gear. Because I replaced the snowblower's original straight drive axle with the Bolens riding mower's differential, what used to be forward is now reverse so I had to relabel the control lever accordingly. I replaced the snowblower's original straight drive axle because without a differential it would've been hard to steer.

"It's easy to operate. All I do is put it in gear and squeeze the clutch handle to go forward. I was concerned whether the caster wheel would work alright when carrying a load, but it does. It steers better than I thought it would. I often pull the rig up alongside my log splitter and load it with firewood, which I then haul to my wood pile or into my shed. I also haul compost which I use on my lawn and around gardens."

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Dump-style, sideways-mounted bucket can be bolted to wheelbarrow.