

Reader Recipes

We're looking for unusual, innovative, or just plain good-tasting recipes. If you have a favorite you'd like to share, send to: Reader Recipes, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Upside Down Rhubarb Cake

5 cups cut-up rhubarb
1 pkg. (3 oz.) strawberry jello
1 cup sugar
3 cups miniature marshmallows
1 pkg. white cake mix

Put rhubarb in bottom of 9 by 13 cake pan. Sprinkle with jello and sugar, then top with marshmallows. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Put on top of marshmallows and bake one hour at 350°. Cool 5 min. and turn upside down on platter.

*Carroll Hunnel
Little Falls, Minn.*

Homemade Mustard

Pour a little boiling water over 3 tbsp dry mustard. Add 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp olive oil, stirred in slowly, and 1 tsp sugar. Add the yolk of 1 egg. Beat well together and pour in vinegar to taste. It'll taste best after 24 hrs.

Quick Sauerkraut

Shredded Cabbage (enough to fill a quart jar)

2 tsp salt
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp vinegar

Sprinkle 1 tsp salt in bottom of a glass quart jar. Fill jar with shredded cabbage. Press down slightly and add 1 tsp salt, sugar, and vinegar. Cover with boiling water and seal (or let sit in refrigerator). It will be ready to eat in about a week.

Soda Cracker Candy

1 cup brown sugar
2 sticks butter
Soda Crackers
6 oz. chocolate chips
6 oz. or less butterscotch chips
Boil brown sugar and butter until sugar is

(Continued on next page)



As potatoes grow, Schmal keeps adding tires and soil. Plants add roots at each level producing more potatoes. Access holes cut into side of each tire are used to find and pick new potatoes.

She Grows Potatoes In Stacks Of Tires

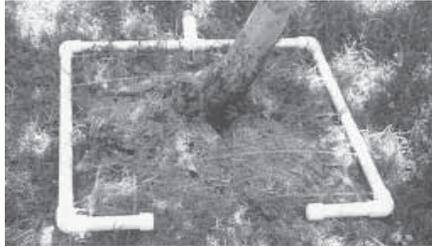
"It's a great way to grow potatoes," says Jennie Schmal, who planted potatoes in a stack of tires last year in Centerville, Texas. She got the idea from her grandmother.

The process is simple. Fill a tire with dirt and plant potatoes as usual. As the potatoes grow, add another tire and more soil. Continue adding for a total of up to six tires. As the plant grows it adds roots at each level that produce more potatoes. Schmal cut four 4 by 4-in. access holes in the side of each tire. When the plant bloomed she reached into the doors on the lowest tire to find and pick new potatoes. She worked her way up the tires through the season.

Other gardeners harvest from the top down at the end of the season, and use the tires to keep the potatoes fresh until they're needed. They simply lift off to pull out the spuds.

The process works just as well in northern gardens. The key is adequate watering - a thorough soaking once or twice a week depending on the weather.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jennie Schmal, P.O. Box 703, Centerville, Texas 75833 (ph 903 626-5558).



Weep holes in U-shaped pvc pipe allow water to seep slowly into ground.

Watering Tube For Trees, Shrubs

"My homemade plastic waterer is designed with small weep holes, allowing water to seep slowly into the ground around my trees and shrubs," says J.M. Reddmann, Cherry Valley, Arkansas.

The U-shaped waterer is made from 3/4-in. dia. schedule 40 pvc pipe and is open at one end, allowing Reddmann to easily slide it around trees and shrubs. It uses a garden hose to provide a continuous supply of water. The hose is hooked up to a threaded adapter that's connected to a pvc "T" fitting. Pipes lead from both sides of the fitting to 90 degree elbows that support 24-in. lengths of pipe with end caps on them.

Reddmann drilled 1/8-in. dia. holes 3 in. apart into all the pipes. A plastic ball valve, located between the swivel and hose thread adapter, is used to control the water pressure. "The water comes out in streams anywhere from 2 to 12 in. long, depending on where I set the valve. The water is delivered slowly so it doesn't run off like a garden hose does.

"The photo shows my waterer with the end partially closed, but I had trouble getting in under bushes so now I leave the end entirely open."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J. M. Reddmann, 387 County Road 219, Cherry Valley, Arkansas 72324 (ph 870 588-3746).

Toilet Paper Rolls Make Nifty Seed Starters

Ruby Murray makes the most of Louisiana's growing season by continuously starting vegetable plants. But she never has to buy seed-starting containers.

Murray discovered toilet paper rolls make perfect biodegradable pots. Cut the rolls in half. Make four slits on one end to fold and make a flat bottom. Slip the half rolls in a box or tray to support each other. Fill them with potting soil and plant the seeds. They hold up just fine over six weeks of watering until the plants are ready, Murray says. When it comes time to plant them, either leave the bottom alone or tear it open, she adds. Either way the roots can grow into the ground and the cardboard dissolves.

She also makes seed containers out of newspapers using a 3-in. form she purchased. "I love to recycle stuff," Murray says. "I'm 71 and can't do a lot of digging, so if I want to make a new bed I put four layers of newspaper on the grass where I want a bed." The paper smothers out the grass and she adds compost and soil on top.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ruby Murray, 175 Addison Rd. Anacoco, La. 71403 (ph 337 286-5583; rubybyrmry@hotmail.com).

FARM SHOW

New Products Especially For Women And The Farm, Ranch Home

"Straight Up" Mailbox

"It's easy to keep my new mailbox post standing straight. If it ever gets knocked over it's simple to put it back up again without digging a hole," says inventor Keith Pins, PIN Industries LLC, Manchester, Iowa.

The mailbox post clamps to a large metal base with five prongs that go into the ground. You pound the base down until it's flush with the ground. The post telescopes as needed to get the right height.

"If the post ever gets hit by a car or snow plow, it'll go over. However, you can put it right back up the same day," says Pins.

Three different models are available. One is designed for flat surfaces; one for corners and light slopes; and one for steep slopes.

"It costs more than your average mailbox, but it's built to last. It'll stand up to anything that's thrown at it," says Pins. "I tested it for three years to make sure everything works. The only limitation is that it can't be pounded into hard, rocky, or frozen ground.

"It sells for about \$200 depending on which base you need. I made it with as many standard parts as possible so it doesn't cost much to maintain."

Skid Plate Protects Working Dogs

A new "Skid Plate" for dogs protects their bellies from rough underbrush. It shields the dog's chest, stomach and side areas from sharp sticks, rocks, wire and other obstacles in the field. Hunting dogs and search and rescue dogs can particularly benefit.

Without limiting the dog's mobility, the garment provides high visibility, and an open back prevents overheating. The Skid Plate features two layers of water resistant Cordura® nylon for extreme durability.

"An adjustable strap system made of rugged nylon webbing with quick release buckles and slide adjusters, ensure the Skid Plate stays on while providing the best possible fit," says sales director David Oine.

The product comes in four sizes and is available in "blaze orange" or "Advantage® Wetlands Camo™" colors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mendota Products, Inc., 120 Bridgepoint Way, Suite B, South St. Paul, Minn. 55075 (ph 800 224-1121; 651 457-9064; fax 651 457-9085; info@mendotaproducts.com; www.mendotaproducts.com).



If this mailbox ever gets knocked over it's simple to put back up again.



"Steep slope" model has metal tabs for pounding it into ground.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Pins, PIN Industries LLC, 17873 192nd St., Manchester, Iowa 52057 (ph 563 927-3489).



Garment protects dog's chest and stomach from rough underbrush.