

## Simple 2-Wheel Fence Unroller

This new 2-wheeled “fencing trailer” makes it easy for one person to lift a roll of woven wire fence upright and unroll it for attachment to posts.

“It’s inexpensive, lightweight and easy to use. There are no hydraulics or mechanical devices, which helps keep the cost down,” says Tim Turner, inventor of the Fence Pal.

It consists of a 28 by 36-in. metal platform with a 34-in. long pole on top and a foot plate underneath. The tongue is hinged in the middle and can be set to run either horizontally or at a slight angle by changing the position of a locking pin.

To load the wire roll you raise the tongue until the pole is horizontal to the ground and push the pole into the roll. Then step on the foot plate, grab a pair of handles at one end of the tongue with both hands, and pull the tongue back toward the ground until the roll is in the vertical position.

“As you pull the tongue back down to the ground, it automatically straightens itself back out and then you move the locking pin into position to keep it straight,” says Turner. “The leverage created by changing the angle

of the tongue and shortening it up really helps. A 330-ft. roll of Redbrand woven wire weighs 263 lbs., but when the tongue is at an angle it feels like you’re applying only 60 lbs. of force. If the tongue was straight the handles would be located too high to provide enough leverage. Also, the pole is located slightly forward of the trailer’s fulcrum point which also helps.

“The plate is equipped with a 1/4-in. thick polyethylene plate that’s slick enough for the roll to rotate on it yet generates enough friction to keep it from spinning too fast.

“I came up with the idea because my wife was helping me put up fence but had trouble keeping the roll upright as I unrolled it. She urged me to build something to make the job easier.”

The Fence Pal can handle wire rolls up to 4 ft. high and has a weight limit of 300 lbs. It sells for \$395 plus S&H.

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2-wheeled “fencing trailer” consists of a metal platform with a 34-in. long pole on top and a poly foot plate for the wire roll to turn on.



To load the wire roll, you grab a pair of handles at one end of tongue and pull it back toward the ground until the roll is in a vertical position.



Haskap is a small blue fruit that tastes like a combination of blueberry and raspberry. Researchers are now developing new varieties.



Haskap berries grow wild in some areas of North America and also in Japan and Russia.

## Haskap Berries Catching On Fast

It’s the first fruit of the year in much of Canada, and researchers and plant propagators hope to make haskap a household name. Some say the small blue fruit tastes like a combination of blueberry and raspberry. It grows in higher pH soils, has twice as many antioxidants as blueberries, and processors are developing a variety of haskap products.

Haskaps are sometimes known as honeyberries. The berry grows wild in some areas of North America and also in Japan and Russia. Dr. Bob Bors, head of the fruit-breeding program at the University of Saskatchewan, has been researching them for 13 years and breeding them for a decade.

Five years ago, eager plant propagators convinced him to release two varieties. Borealis has a slightly better taste and is a bit bigger, but is more delicate and preferred by homeowners. Tundra handles being picked

by machinery better and is preferred by commercial growers who process the berries into products including jams, wines and dairy treats.

“When you put frozen haskap in your mouth, they dissolve, the skin just disappears and seeds aren’t noticed. That’s why smoothie people like them,” Bors says, adding that there is great interest in making a variety of products including gelato, because of haskap’s flavor and intense color.

Haskap wines also surprise connoisseurs because they have a similar flavor to red grape wine, which can be difficult to grow in northern climes.

Typically, haskaps ripen in late June in the Canada prairie region, a couple of weeks before strawberries – possibly earlier in the U.S. That early ripening adds value to haskaps, which have reportedly sold for as

high as \$10/lb.

Haskap bushes yield well 3 or 4 years after being planted. Depending on the year, they continue to bear fruit into August – and even into September in cool summers. Good plants yield 7 to 15 lbs. after 5 years. Birds, especially cedar waxwings, love the berries so bushes must be covered with netting.

The Haskap Canada Association (www.haskap.ca) has a website including information, photos and propagators who sell the Tundra and Borealis varieties. Bors suggests U.S. buyers contact www.honeyberryusa.com to avoid the \$35 inspection certificate for shipping between the countries.

“Everyone is in a phase of experimentation,” Bors says. “I’ve been telling people to try out the two varieties (Borealis and Tundra), but we will have improved varieties coming out

in future years.”

He is working on finding the right blend of Canadian/Russian/Japanese genetics to create good characteristics – fatter, sweeter fruit that ripens evenly.

Haskap berries excite growers who can’t grow other kinds of fruits. They appreciate that haskaps tolerate flooding, grow in soils with levels as high as 8 pH, survive light frost after blooming, and are suitable for Zones 0-6. The biggest danger in the warmer zones is that they come out of dormancy early during a warm winter spell.

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## “Cheap & Simple” Storage Bins

“I made two feed compartment storage boxes out of old 250-gal. chemical shuttles,” says Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.

“I cut the tops out, welded a 1 1/2-in. by 1/8-in. angle iron all the way around the top edge, and put on two 8-in. tee hinges. A tarp strap holds each lid down.

“The top cover is made from 1/2 in. treated

plywood. The fellow I built them for uses them in his calf barn to hold grain. Of course, the boxes could be used for most anything, such as storing crushed aluminum cans.”

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Roger Gutschmidt made these storage bins out of old 250-gal. chemical shuttles, cutting the tops out and installing hinged plywood lids.