



Pool noodles cut in half slip over front and back of frame to keep from tearing tarp.

Nifty Portable Tractor Cover

"I have to drive over my lawn to get my 9N tractor out to my woodlot. So I decided to park the tractor in the woods for firewood hauling. I hate to leave it outside so I came up with a simple way to cover it," says Mark Yax, Solon, Ohio.

"I made some uprights out of aluminum tubing. On the front end, U-shaped brackets fit over the axle. At the back, I added a short piece that fits to the top link. Another piece runs from the front bracket to the back. The 3 pieces come off easily for storage. I cut a pool noodle in half to slip over the front and back to keep from tearing the tarp, which is held in place with a couple 2 by 6's and cement blocks on either side. Bungee straps hold the front and rear, leaving openings so air can circulate.

"The tractor stays nice and dry and it only takes a couple minutes to cover it. My uncle,



Mark Yax wanted to park his tractor in the woods for firewood hauling so he made a simple way to cover it, using a tarp that fits snugly over a tractor-mounted metal frame.

who bought this tractor 77 years ago, would be glad that I'm taking good care of his baby."

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Cordless drill's body attaches to mower deck and handle bolts to mower fender. Wiring runs from handle to drill motor, and from there to mower's battery. A short cable connects deflector.

Cordless Drill Raises Mower Deflector Out Of The Way

Rick Plunkett, Albany, Ky., wanted to mow close to trees and buildings but he didn't like getting off his riding mower all the time to raise the deflector chute up out of the way. So he converted an old 12-volt cordless drill to do the job automatically.

He uses the idea on his 2-year-old Toro 5060 zero-turn riding mower, but says the idea would work on any mower brand or model.

He disconnected the handle of the drill and bolted the body onto a Lexan bracket that he screwed to the top of the mower deck. He bolted the handle onto the mower fender next to the machine's throttle. Then he ran wiring from the drill handle to the motor, and from there to the mower's battery. He also drilled a small hole in the deflector chute and bolted an L-shaped metal bracket onto it. A short cable connects the bracket to the drill head.

"It works slick. I pull the trigger to raise or lower the chute, and once it's in place I let go," says Plunkett. "The drill has a slip clutch so as soon as the cable gets tight the motor's slip clutch slips, without ripping the bracket out of the chute. I installed an adapter on the drill to convert it from 12 volts to 6 volts so that it runs slower."

Plunkett made the conversion a year ago last fall. "I have a lot of trees and flowers in my yard, and I also mow several yards for neighbors so I use it a lot," he says. "The deflector chute on my zero-turn mower sticks out about a foot, but when it's raised up out of the way I can mow right next to buildings, trees, flowers, mailbox posts, and so forth with no problem."

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Easy-To-Make, Stand Up Planter

Tim Hanson says he is too old to kneel down to plant his garden, so he does it standing. His quick and easy planter makes it a snap to plant seeds of any size, and his row marker makes laying out the garden easy as well.

"I've used the planter with beans, peas, beets, cucumbers, mostly finger-size, row-crop seeds," says Hanson. "It has plenty of room for several cups of seeds, yet lets me plant one seed at a time."

Hanson says the planter is as simple as it is easy to make, requiring only a plastic bottle, a length of conduit or pvc tubing, and some duct tape and wire. He prefers using a plastic bottle about 5 in. in dia. He cuts off the top half of the bottle on a slant, leaving it about 2 in. high on one side and about 8 in. on the other side.

"I cut a tab in the higher side of the bottle about 2 in. long to fit over the tubing, leaving a short length attached at the top," says Hanson. "After I slide the tubing over the tab, I secure it in place with tape and wire."

Because the tube ends up being at a slight angle, Hanson trims the tube end so it is parallel with the ground.

"This makes sure the seeds go where I want them without bouncing around," he explains. "Seeds for planting are held in the bottom of the bottle. I can pick out one or more seeds as desired, stick the end of the tube into the



Seeds for planting are held in bottom of cut-off plastic bottle and dropped into tube.

ground, and drop the seeds down it. Then all I have to do is step them into the tilled garden bed."

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Rob Fetting built this portable burn barrel out of an old 100-gal. fuel tank that he mounted horizontally on a small 2-wheeled trailer.

Portable "Fuel Tank" Burn Barrel

"I got the idea after reading a story in FARM SHOW about a trailer-mounted burn barrel (Vol. 40, No. 3)," says Rob Fetting, who built his own portable burn barrel out of an old 100-gal. fuel tank. It's mounted horizontally on a small 2-wheeled trailer he already had. He pulls it behind his riding mower.

The trailer frame happened to be just the right size to hold the 5-ft. long, 3-ft. dia. tank. Fetting cut a door in one end of the tank that's held with two hinges.

Smoke goes out a chimney that's welded into a hole he cut into the other end of the barrel. It keeps rain out of the barrel and ashes in. There's also a small vent at the bottom of the barrel with a screen over it. To clean out the ashes, Fetting removes the screen and then uses a homemade clean-out tool - that mounts on the side of the tank - to pull ashes out through the vent.

"I use it mostly to burn up tree branches and brush on my property. I can take it right to the debris, load it in, and light it," says Fetting. "It has a lot of capacity and is a lot safer than burning garbage in a 55-gal. drum with an open top. There's not much left to clean out after it burns."

"The tank is bolted down to the front and



Door cut into one end of tank is held with 2 hinges.

back of the trailer frame. I use a homemade jack to hold the trailer level. To change the height, I just pull a pin and move it up or down," he says.

Fetting didn't do any welding on the fuel oil tank, using only a sawzall. "Before I burned anything I drained all the fuel oil out of the tank and then added a couple inches of water on the bottom. Then I threw some paper and brush in to burn any leftover sludge on the sides of the tank. Any sparks that hit the water were quickly extinguished."

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