

Made It Myself

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Air Seeder Built From Scratch

George Yungwirth, Prince Albert, Sask., built his own field cultivator-mounted air seeder, saving the cost of a new commercial air seeder and incorporating features not offered on existing commercial models.

Yungwirth built a 36-in. dia., 5-in. wide pto-operated fan and mounted it on the tongue of the cultivator, which was built heavy enough to handle the extra weight because it had been designed to carry anhydrous ammonia tanks. Then he installed a three-compartment tank on top of the cultivator. One compartment holds 60 bu. of seed. Each of the other two compartments hold 75 bu. of seed, or a combined total of 5 tons of fertilizer. Yungwirth pulls the unit with a Steiger Cougar 225-hp 4-WD tractor.

"I built my air seeder four years ago. Back then, commercial air seeders were equipped with only one compartment so you couldn't deep band pre-blended granular fertilizer and seed at the same time," says Yungwirth. "To apply two different types of fertilizer such as nitrogen and phosphorus, you had to make two passes. Then you had to make a third pass to seed the crop. I can fill each of the two larger compartments with a different type of fertilizer and blend it on-the-go, or I can fill both compartments with pre-blended fertilizer. The result is that I can seed out of the smaller 60-bu. compartment and deep-band pre-blended fertilizer in one trip.

"Another problem with commercial air

seeders was that the blower fans were powered either by separate gas or diesel engines, or by orbit motors driven by the tractor's hydraulic system. The engines would develop dust and dirt problems, and many tractors suffered hydraulic pump failures. My pto-operated blower fan is far more trouble-free. Also, the hopper on commercial air seeders is mounted between the tractor and cultivator so you can't see the cultivator, or it's towed behind the cultivator where it can cause compaction. My hopper mounts right on top of the field cultivator where it doesn't cause any visibility or soil compaction problems."

Yungwirth used 4 by 8-ft. sheets of 1/8-in. thick metal to build the hopper. He used the same material to build a smaller 15-bu. capacity hopper that he mounted on the tongue of the cultivator between the fan and the hopper. The small hopper is used to carry granular herbicides or fine seeds such as rape or grass.

The air seeder, which rides on eight sets of dual flotation tires, is equipped with seven hydraulic cylinders. Four cylinders raise and lower the frame, two cylinders raise and fold the wings, and one cylinder raises and lowers the metering wheel. The cultivator is equipped with thirty 16-in. sweep shovels spaced 1 ft. apart.

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"Double-Wide" Push Mower

"It took too long to cut my lawn with a single 22-in. wide push mower so I built my own 'double-wide' mower out of two push mowers. It mows twice as fast as a single push mower and works better than a riding mower," says Charles Roth, Greencastle, Penn.

Roth built the "double-wide" push mower by building a deck that ties the 22-in. wide mower and a 20-in. wide mower together.

"It really cuts grass in a hurry and didn't cost much to build," says Roth, who made the mower 6 years ago. "It cuts 40 in. wide, but actually cuts more than twice as fast as two 20-in. wide mowers because I'm making fewer passes and not overlapping as much grass. It does a better job than a riding mower because I can mow right around trees without missing any grass. Also, there are no belts to break. Although it weighs about 100 lbs. and

isn't self-propelled, I can push it as fast as a single mower because our lawn is relatively flat."

The "double-wide" mower uses the two mowers' original 3 hp Briggs & Stratton engines and blades. Roth removed the steel frames from both mowers and replaced them with a 40-in. long, 20-in. wide, 3/4-in. thick plywood deck. He mounted the left motor and blades about 6 in. ahead of the right motor which allows each set of blades to overlap without interference. He bolted a pair of angle iron brackets to the top of each side of the deck and attached four mower wheels to them. A 16-in. long, 1 1/2-in. dia. roller at the front and rear keeps the mower from hanging up on uneven ground. Roth lengthened and widened one mower's handlebars and bolted the lower end of each side to the angle iron wheel mount brackets. "Both ends of the handlebar

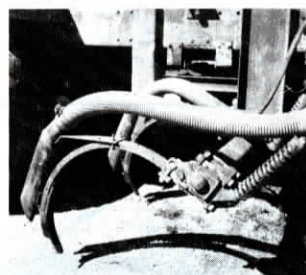


Self-Propelled Manure Injector Built From Old Cement Truck

"Our self-propelled manure injector lets us haul manure fast and also frees up a tractor. It works great," say Joe and Jim Schieber, Caledonia, Minn., who converted an old cement truck into a 3,200 gal. self-propelled injector 8 years ago.

"Before we built this rig we spread liquid manure from our 300-sow farrow-to-finish hog unit on top of our fields with a 2,000-gal. honey wagon," says Joe. "But it wasn't an efficient method because manure tended to remain on the soil surface instead of making its way to the root zone. We also needed a 120-hp tractor to pull the wagon. When we bought some land several miles away we needed to find a way to get manure to it without wearing out our tractor. This self-propelled rig reduces manure-hauling time and causes less damage to roads than a pull-type wagon. It also lets us head off potential odor complaints on land we own next to a major highway."

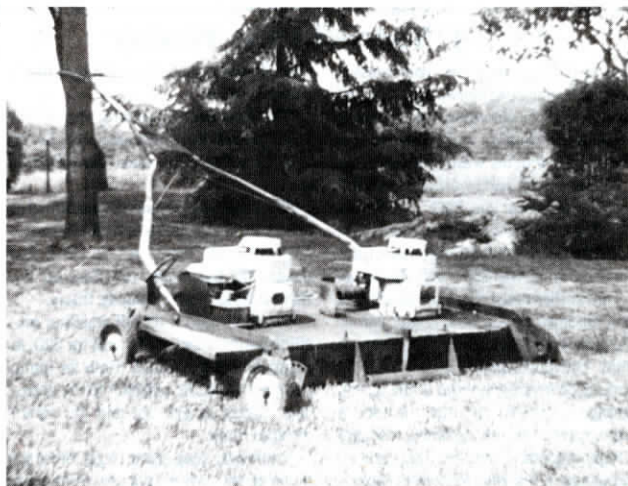
The Schiebers bought the 1966 White Freightliner truck with 60,000 miles on it for \$4,500. They replaced the engine with a new 220-hp V-6 diesel. They bolted 15-ft. long, 2 by 6-in. planks to the top of the truck's frame to provide a buffer between the frame and the 3,200-gal. tank. They bolted the tank to four brackets welded to the frame. To mount the injector knives,



they welded a 3-ft. long I-beam vertically on each side of the frame and cut a hole in each beam through which they mounted a 10-ft. long toolbar. They used hinge brackets to bolt four injection knives onto the bar spaced 30 in. apart. Each knife is equipped with a pair of springs which allows them to flex up and down during injection. The Schiebers can raise or lower the knives via a hydraulic cylinder that's powered by a hydraulic pump mounted on the truck's engine. The knives inject manure as deep as 12 in.

The Schiebers estimate they spent \$16,000 to build the unit.

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pivot on a bolt, allowing the handlebars to swing about 10 in. up or down as the mower goes over bumps."

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