



One-piece hood flips up for access to the engine and drive components.

Deere Introduces "Flip Up" Zero Turn Riding Mower

You won't find a riding mower on the market that's easier to service than Deere's new "flip up" zero turn riding mower. The "Z-Trak" was introduced at the recent Ohio Power Show.

The entire hood - including the seat - is built as a one-piece unit that can be flipped up for access to the engine and drive components. The deck also flips up 90 degrees for easy maintenance and access to blades.

The rig is powered by a gas engine and is available in 20 and 25 hp models. A com-

pany dealer told FARM SHOW that diesel engines may be available by next year. Decks are available in 48, 54, and 60-in. widths.

The mower has a low center of gravity for stability on hillsides and has superior traction, says the company. Its short overall length - 54 in. without the mower - provides great maneuverability in tight areas.

Sells for \$8,000 to \$9,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Deere & Co., John Deere Rd., Moline, Ill. 61265 (ph 800 537-8233).



Unit has a 5-lb. capacity PVC canis-



It provides thorough coverage over a 50-ft. radius.

Leaf Blower-Powered Fruit, Vegetable Duster

This new leaf blower-powered crop duster provides more uniform broadcast coverage and will treat a larger area than manually operated units, according to distributor Frank G. Ussery, a Georgia fruit and vegetable grower.

The "Super Duster" consists of a 5-lb. capacity PVC canister for powders, seeds or granular materials. A vacuum regulator determines application rate as air moves across the top layer of material.

The duster, which mounts on virtually any

gas or electric-powered leaf vac/blower with an adapter, provides thorough coverage of plants and other surfaces in up to a 50 ft. radius, Ussery says. It'll handle up to 1 acre before refilling, he adds.

Sells for \$59.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank G. Ussery, 173 Farr Road, Kathleen, Ga. 31047 (ph 912 987-3331) or Diversified Industries, 49A Freamon Graham Blvd., Eastman, Ga. 31023 (ph 912 374-0715; fax 0716).



Iager lays 4 or 5 ft. of plastic out on the ground and sets the first bale on it. Then he locks plastic in place between first and second bale.

Slick Way To Cover Round Bales With Plastic

"This method uses a little more plastic but it sure beats hauling posts or old tires around to hold the plastic in place," says Larry Iager, Laurel, Maryland.

He uses the bales themselves to hold plastic in place. He starts with a 100-ft. long sheet of plastic cut 4-ft. wide.

He lays about 4 to 5 ft. of plastic out on the ground and sets the first bale on top of it. He then pulls the wrap over the bale to a distance approximately 1 ft. off the ground. The second bale is set on bare ground next to the first bale using a tractor loader. You push

this second bale up against the first bale, locking the plastic in place between both bales. (Note: You should put a cement block behind the first bale to keep it from rolling backwards as you shove additional bales up against it.)

"We've stored hundreds of bales this way with great results. The only loss is on the ends," says Iager.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry H. Iager, 8740 Old Columbia Rd., Laurel, Md. 20723 (ph 301 776-6622).

The "Natural Way" To Control Pest Birds

"We've had exceptionally favorable results around our place. They scare the heck out of sparrows and other small pest birds," says Larry Decker, whose company sells specially designed birdhouses that attract Kestrel hawks, also known as sparrow hawks. They prey on rodents and small birds, especially sparrows.

Kestrels lay their eggs in the cavities of trees, ledges on buildings or along cliffs. They can also be attracted to man-made nest boxes.

Decker sells boxes 9 1/4 in. square by 17 in. high. They're made out of 3/4-in. thick unfinished pine.

You mount the nest boxes in partially open land, 15 to 20-ft. high, and within 30 yds. of a tree with dead limbs, or a power pole. They use the dead limbs as plucking perches where males dismember their prey and pass the food on to the female, who feeds the young.

Sparrow hawks, which are common throughout much of the U.S., usually have one brood per year, raising three to four young birds. Adults often return to the same nest year after year, Decker says.

"You should be aware that they'll go after any other birds that are smaller than they



Kestrel houses attract "sparrow hawks" to the farm to control sparrows and rodents.

are, including pigeons and song birds," Decker says.

Kestrel boxes sell for \$33.95 plus S&H; plans cost \$3 including S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Big River Specialty Company, 17067 Higginsport Road, Bernard, Iowa 52032 (ph 800 881-4346 or 319 879-3166; fax 3218).

Plant Stress Eyeglasses Help Detect Crop Problems

You can detect early signs of plant stress before they become obvious to the naked eye with these new plant stress-detection glasses made by Spectrum Technologies, Plainfield, Ill.

The purple lenses in the new "SpecWare" glasses were developed by NASA so aircraft pilots could evaluate ground vegetation. The company says that when insects, disease or other agents cause stress by reducing chlorophyll, the initial symptoms are not visible to the naked eye. As a result, often a plant's stress isn't visible until the damage is irreversible. The

glasses enhance the stressed part of the leaf by filtering out certain wavelengths of light. They block the green color reflected from chlorophyll found in normal healthy vegetation, causing it to appear black or gray. In contrast, stressed areas will stand out as glowing red, coral, pink, or other hues.

New plant growth will appear wine-colored as will anything that's pale green. White leaves will appear brilliant blue or white. Yellows, which can indicate mineral deficient leaves, appear to be coral colored. Browns, which can indicate burned leaf edges, appear deep red.

The company recommends limiting use of the glasses to about 20 minutes at a time, until you adapt to the bright, neon colors that you see through the lenses.

The glasses are available in sunglass or clip-on styles and sell for \$49.50 plus \$7.50 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Spectrum Technologies, Inc., 23839 West Andrew Road, Plainfield, Ill. 60544 (ph 800 248-8873 or 815 436-4440; fax 4460; E-mail: specmeters@aol.com).



Glasses enhance stressed part of leaf by filtering out ceratin light wavelengths.