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12-FT. HIGH CAB PROVIDES A GREAT VIEW

## Self-Propelled, 4-WD "High-Cab" Sprayer

"The cab sits 12 ft. off the ground so I'm always breathing clean air above the chemicals. I also have a terrific view," says Dennis Zackrisson, Tribune, Sask., about the self-propelled 4-WD "high-cab" sprayer that he built out of a 4-WD dump truck fitted with a Deutz tractor cab.

The sprayer is powered by the truck's 210 hp, 6-cyl. Rolls Royce diesel engine and rides on big 16.9 by 26 diamond tread tires off an old combine. On back is an 800-gal. stainless steel tank and an 82-ft. Blumhardt boom.

"I built it because I wanted the 'high-cab' advantages of a new commercial self-propelled sprayer without having to spend the money for one," says Zackrisson. "It looks similar to Deere's new self-propelled sprayer which sells for more than \$100,000. I spent only about \$10,500."

Zackrisson bought the early 1950's, 7-ton dump truck from a neighbor for \$1,500.

In the early 1960's the original owner had equipped it with a V-plow on front and re-powered it with a Rolls Royce 6-cyl. diesel engine. He removed the cab and dump box, keeping the engine, 5-speed transmission, frame, and running gear.

He bought a used Deutz tractor cab at a junkyard for \$1,000. He mounted it on an elevated frame that he bolted to the truck. He then hooked the gauges in the cab up to the truck.

To hook up the clutch he simply ran a cable from the tractor clutch pedal to the truck clutch. He wanted to use the truck's air brakes so he threw away the tractor brake pedal, then remounted the truck brake pedal in the cab and ran an air hose from it to the truck brakes. To hook up the throttle he used an emergency brake cable off a Volkswagen car and ran it from the tractor throttle to the truck's fuel injection pump. "To accelerate I can use either the tractor's original foot-

### Hot New Apple Created By Chance

"This new apple is destined to have a tremendous future," says Grant Elliott about his new apple variety that's being tested at several nurseries around the country this year.

The Elliott apple was developed from a volunteer seedling that first appeared in Elliott's orchard near Provo, Utah, 18 years ago. For some reason, he decided not to plow under the stray plant and now its fruit is creating a stir in the apple world.

"It has a firm, sweet, tart, fruity complex and, at the same time, a very attractive bright yellow color with a gorgeous pink blush," writes James K. Ballard of the Northwest Fruit Testers Association.

"I would rate this one better than the much-touted [Australian] Pink Lady."

Ballard says the chance of getting a new apple variety of this quality from a wild off-shoot plant is one in 100,000.

By this time, the original tree is about 15 ft. tall and 15 ft. across and Elliott has produced about 25 other trees from it.

Burchell Nursery in Modesto, Calif., helped Elliott patent his apple and is selling trees for testing mostly in the Pacific Northwest but as far east as Wisconsin



**The first Elliott tree (shown above) started as a wild offshoot in Grant Elliott's orchard.**

(4201 McHenry, Modesto, Calif. 95356; ph 209 529-5685). The nursery plans to begin selling the trees commercially next spring.

The first Elliott apples will hit stores in two to five years, Elliott and the nursery say.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Grant Elliott, 4950 North Canyon Road, Provo, Utah 84604 (ph 801 226-3953). **(The Daily Herald)**

operated throttle pedal or hand throttle," says Zackrisson.

He mounted the tractor's power steering cylinder on one side of the truck chassis and hooked it up to the tractor's power steering system. Hydraulic pressure is provided by a crankshaft-mounted pump. The cab still has the original air conditioner.

To mount the spray boom he bolted a 3-in. angle iron frame on back of the truck chassis and bolted the boom onto the frame. The boom is normally kept about 4 1/2 ft. off the ground but can be manually raised or lowered via a series of holes in the frame.

"I used it last spring and summer to spray weeds in my wheat and in the fall to desiccate the crop so that it would mature earlier. It worked great," says Zackrisson. "I plan to use it this spring to apply burndown chemicals. It didn't take long to build. My son Brennan helped me build it. We started work a year ago in March and by July we had already sprayed 4,000 acres. We also used it to custom spray 1,000 acres. I had been using a 130-ft. pull-type sprayer that I pulled with a big tractor. I also used a Melroe Spray Coupe. However, I like this sprayer because the cab sits higher and I can see better. The truck's 5-speed Fuller transmission and 2-speed gearbox allows me to go 3 to 20 mph. Going 10 mph and applying 5 gallons per acre I can spray 160 acres be-

fore I have to refill. The Rolls Royce engine uses only about 7 1/2 gallons of fuel per fill.

"The engine runs like a top and has a lot of torque. It's made in England but getting parts for it shouldn't be a problem because every part is numbered. Also, I bought the truck with a spare engine which I can use for parts.

"I paid \$3,000 for the boom, \$1,000 for the cab, and \$500 for the tank. I also bought a new Honda high pressure sprayer pump.

"To provide access to the tank I mounted a pair of ladders salvaged from old International 151 combines on each side, between the cab and tank. I use the tractor's original ladder to get into the cab. I plan to build a catwalk which will allow me to walk directly from the cab back to the tank. I also plan to add fenders, an updated chemical rinsing and mixing system, an air ride suspension system for the front axle, hydraulic boom lifts, charcoal air filters for the cab, larger diameter but narrower tires, and a front-mounted light bar."

To mount the combine tires on the sprayer, Zackrisson cut the rims off a pair of combine wheels and welded them to the centers on the original truck wheels.

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### "Mole Blaster" Kills Pest Animals With Shotgun Shells

"If the pellets don't kill them, the concussion will. It gives moles the distinct idea they're not welcome and any that survive will leave for a long time after you use it," says Lloyd T. Good about a "mole blaster" he built to chase pest animals out of his yard.

It's actually a home-built booby-trap that fires shotgun shells. It's placed on top of a runway and fires into the ground when a mole trips the trigger.

The Mount Vernon, Wash., retired farmer used an 8-in. length of Schedule 80 pipe for the "gun barrel", which mounts on an 18 in. sq. base built of 1/4-in. steel plate. A shotgun shell (any gauge) loads in a sleeve in the barrel, with a spring-loaded "firing pin" hammer resting above it. Two stabilizer rods attach to either side of the base to hold it in place when the gun recoils.

To use, Good places the blaster over the runway and pushes the trigger down through the ground into the runway. The trigger is cocked until the mole pushes on the trigger. Then, blam, no more mole.

"It works like a million bucks," he says. "I've killed 10 or 12 moles with it. The last one was over a year ago and I



Home-built booby-trap is placed on top of runway. It fires shells into the ground when a mole trips the trigger.

haven't seen any more since. It'd probably work well on other burrowing pest animals, too."

The mole blaster is used with extreme caution, he adds. "I've painted it red and put a black danger sign on it as a safety precaution," he says.

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