



Fence sweeper is equipped with rotating brush and chopper-mower to sweep off weeds that collect on fences.

Pto-Powered "Fence Sweeper" Chops Up Weeds That Collect Along Fences

"I built it because there wasn't anything on the market that could do the job," says Ken Wolery, Billings, Montana, about the rotating brush and chopper-mower he built to sweep off weeds that collect on fences.

The 2-wheeled machine is equipped with a flail-type chopper that measures 6 1/2 ft. wide, as well as a 32-in. dia., 40-in. high brush. The brush is operated by an orbital motor driven by a pto-operated pump. A hydraulic cylinder is used to raise or lower the brush on uneven ground. The brush rotates clockwise. As the driver moves forward the brush sweeps the weeds into the chopper, which then chops them up and blows them out the back.

Wolery uses the rig to do custom work cleaning up dried tumble weeds and kochia that collect along pasture fences in his area.

"It chops the weeds and shreds them up in a cloud of dust. The only manual work is in the corners where I use a pitchfork to clean out any weeds that the machine can't reach," says Wolery. "The chopper-mower chops up weeds along the ground as well as the weeds that are fed into it by the brush. The machine

is offset behind the tractor so my total width, including the tractor, is about 16 ft. I don't go very fast. I average a little over 1 mph but have gone just over 2 mph. The speed all depends on the terrain and the straightness of the fence. In some cases where there are higher fences and bigger banks of weeds I might have to make two passes. The machine will chop up any green weeds, too.

"It's a real fence friendly machine. If the brush ever picks up a broken wire the orbit motor that drives the brush will automatically stop so that the fence won't get torn up. A lot of people ask me if there's any problem with weed seeds. I always tell them that most of the seeds have fallen out before the dried weeds get blown into the fence, or they've already fallen out along the fence before I get to them."

Wolery says he's willing to custom sweep fences for farmers and ranchers anywhere in North America.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Wolery, TyLco Enterprises, 108 Stillwater Lane, Billings, Montana 59105 (ph 406 259-2954; E-mail: nkvolery@qwest.net).



As driver moves forward, brush sweeps weeds into chopper which then blows them out the back.

Don't Miss The Next Issue Of FARM SHOW

Every day our editors are uncovering exciting new products and farmer-built inventions that promise to save you time and money. Don't miss out! You can tell when your FARM SHOW subscription expires by checking your address label on the front cover. It gives you the date of your final issue (example: 12/1/2001). You can use the order envelope enclosed with this issue, or the order coupon on page 44, to send in your renewal. Or call us toll-free at 1-800-834-9665.



Wick wiper is built in two 20-ft. sections that each ride on a pair of in-line castor wheels. Wiper can be hydraulically lowered to within 3 in. of ground or raised as high as 6 ft.

40-Ft. Wide Custom-Built Wick Wiper Mounts On ATV

"It lets us go over wet ground without leaving ruts, and we can cover a lot of acres fast," says Monte Kretchmar, Medford, Ark., who converted a 4-wheeler Polaris ATV into a 40-ft. wick wiping rig.

Kretchmar uses the ATV-mounted wick wiper to do custom work in a five-state region that includes Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. "We wipe Roundup onto wild rye and weeds in wheat and pastures and onto Johnsongrass in ditches," he says.

The wick wiper is built in two 20-ft. sections that each ride on a pair of in-line castor wheels. The sections are built as an integral part of a steel frame that bolts onto the front and back of the ATV with six bolts. Each wiper is attached to the bottom of a poly frame. The two sections are joined together at the middle, and are raised or lowered by a hydraulic cylinder that mounts on front of the ATV. Telescoping rods connect the top part of the frame with the wiper at the bottom. As a result, the wiper can be lowered to within 3 in. of the ground or raised as high as 6 ft. Crop dividers keep crop damage from the ATV wheels at a minimum.

Hydraulics are powered by a 12-volt motor that operates off the ATV's battery.

"We built it because there wasn't anything big enough on the market," says Kretchmar. "We built three of the units. We also built a 20-ft. model that has a roof over the ATV."



Kretchmar also built a 20-ft. model that has a roof over the ATV.

On a good day each rig can cover up to 600 acres apiece. We mount narrow wheels on the ATV's to reduce crop damage. In three or four days the crop comes back and you can hardly tell we were ever in the field. We don't have a lot of money invested in these rigs. We chose the Polaris model because it's equipped with an automatic transmission. It also has an air ride seat so it's comfortable to operate. We mounted a plastic windshield and lights on front.

"We haul the ATV's and booms in an enclosed trailer. We drive the ATV's into the center of the trailer and hang the booms on the walls."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Monte Kretchmar, Rt. 3, Box 154, Medford, Ark. 73759 (ph 580 395-2606).

Battery-Operated Post Hole Digger

This portable post hole digger is designed to be operated by the 12-volt battery on your car, pickup, or tractor.

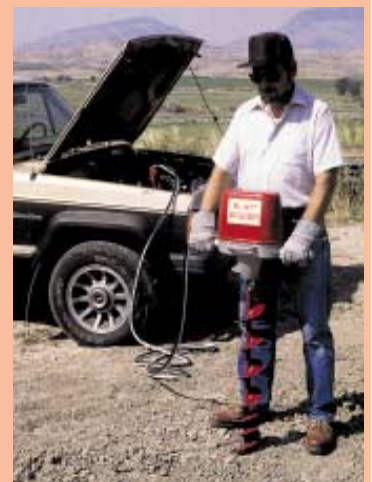
The digger is powered by a 2 hp motor and comes with battery clamps with 20-ft. flexible leads. It comes with a 32-in. long auger and is designed to dig holes anywhere from 2 to 7 in. in diameter. The operator grabs a handle on each side that's equipped with "form fit" hand grips. The auger is activated by a trigger type on-off switch.

"It's lightweight and well balanced, which makes it easy to use," says the company, which has been making the digger for years but has not publicized it much.

Optional attachments include a 12-in. extension shaft, as well as a 7-in. dia. ice auger and a slip clutch.

Sells for about \$750.

Contact: FARM SHOW My-D Han-D, Rt. 1, 10881 McArtor Rd., Dodge City, Kansas (ph 620 225-0263).



Portable hole digger is designed to be operated by the 12-volt battery on your car, pickup, or tractor.