

“Mini” Crawler Built From Old Cletrac Tractor

“My son David and I built our own crawler tractor using the undercarriage of an old Cletrac HG 3 tractor. It looks a lot like a miniature late 1980’s D4 Caterpillar and really works well,” says Allen Semler, Stonewall, Manitoba.

The crawler is painted Cat yellow and equipped with a front-mounted dozer blade and a 3-shank ripper. When they stripped down the Cletrac, they kept the transmission, rear end, and track assemblies. They also built a new frame and installed a 3-cyl. diesel engine and 5-speed Volvo transmission. They mounted a live hydraulic pump on the front side of the engine to power the attachments and built their own bell housing that adapts to the car transmission. They also built a steel canopy for it.

“We use it all the time. It feels and runs like a much larger unit than it really is and has amazing power,” says Semler. “A lot of people don’t know we built it and think it’s a factory-made Cat D-4. It was quite a job to

build and took about two years to complete. With the dozer, ripper and canopy it weighs about 6,200 lbs.

“We’ve used it to clear ground, blaze walking trails through woods, haul wood, dig holes and backfill basements. We also use it a lot for clearing snow in the winter.

“It steers hydraulically with two foot pedals, leaving the driver’s hands free to operate the hydraulic controls. We use first and second gear in the Volvo transmission and first, second, and third gear in the Cletrac transmission, which gives us six forward speeds and two reverse. The Lister 3-cyl. isn’t a big engine but it has a lot of torque.

“The original Cletrac was designed for high speed and had springs mounted in the track frame, but that didn’t work good with the dozer blade in front so we removed the springs and replaced them with a steel cross bar that supports the engine,” says Semler.

Semler says he’d like to modernize old equipment for others if anyone is interested.



Allen Semler and his son David built this “mini” crawler tractor to look like a miniature 1980’s D4 Cat.

“For example, if someone has an old tractor that’s getting tired and needs hydraulic steering or live hydraulics, we can update it,” he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Allen Semler, Box 225, Stonewall, Manitoba, Canada R0C 2Z0 (ph 204 467-2783; fax 204 467-9683).



Trap consists of a wood box with a sliding door held up by a rod that’s bumped out of the way when an animal steps on an inclined ramp. Opposite end of trap has a screen-in wall.

Do-It-Yourself Live Trap

At times there are too many foxes running around Peter Peters’ farm. That’s when he pulls out his home-built fox trap.

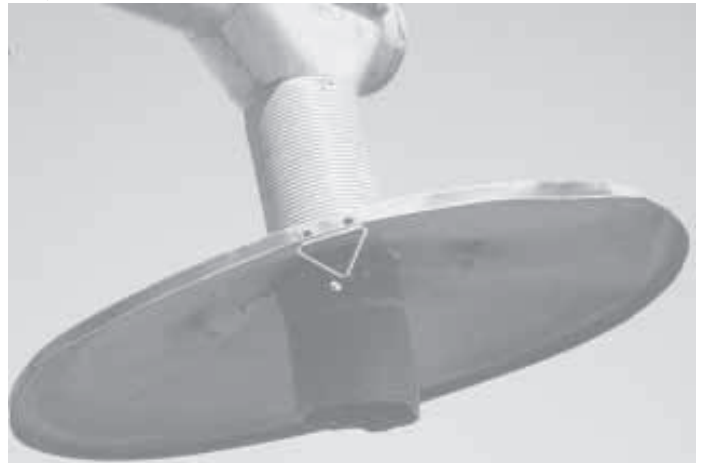
He notes it can also be used for other small animals like raccoons, skunks, etc. The best thing about the trap is that it works as well as commercial wire traps but costs virtually nothing to build using scrap parts.

It’s simply a wood box with a sliding door on one end and a screen-in wall at the other. “Animals won’t enter a trap if they can’t see

through it,” Peters notes.

The trap measures 4 ft. long, 18 in. wide, and 2 ft. high and is equipped with a tilted ramp with a rod on it that holds the door up. When the animal reaches the halfway point on the ramp, the ramp tilts over and pulls the rod away from the door which causes it to fall down.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pete Peters, Box 166, Osler, Sask., Canada S0K 3A0 (ph 306 239-2045).



Costello cut a 10-in. hole in the center of an old hog feeder lid and used L-shaped brackets to hold it solid.

Bin Opening Cover

“Years ago my dad always made me climb the bin and cover the hole with a tarp when we had an auger set up to fill it,” says Harold Costello, Kewanna, Ind.

“Now that I’m older, I decided to find something that would cover the hole to keep rain out yet still let air from the bin dryer out. I found an old hog feeder lid that was a large

enough diameter and cut a 10-in. hole in the center. I used L-shaped brackets to hold it solid and caulked it to seal the pipe to the lid.

“This works great and I no longer have to climb the bin every time I move the auger.” Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold G. Costello, 8170 S. State Rd 17, Kewanna, Ind. 46939 (ph 574 653-2363).

Sun Block Fruit Coating Also Fights Bugs

Fruit growers have a sticky new ally in their battle with bugs. It’s a thin new clay coating called “Surround” that was developed by the U.S.D.A. Ag Research Service and the Engelhard Corporation.

Apple growers report unblemished fruit crops thanks to the fine clay particles which are applied in a spray solution. Once in place, Surround creates an alkaline barrier to fungal spores and inhibits other pests. When insects and mites touch the powder, it sticks to them and causes irritation. Flying insects leave before eating or laying eggs, while non-flyers become disoriented and neither eat nor lay eggs. At the same time, the porous particles do allow natural respiration and exchange of gasses.

Surround controls plum curculio, Japanese beetles, leafhoppers, thrips and other insects. It has also been shown to be effective against cucumber beetles, according to the company.

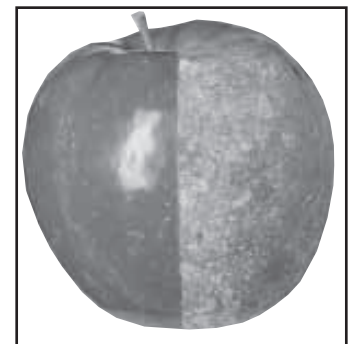
The crop protectant also reduces sunburn and blocks infrared light. This keeps the plant cooler and can enhance fruit color. Independent apple orchard studies have shown sunburn damage was reduced by around 50 percent.

Surround is applied as a water-based slurry at a rate of 50 lbs./acre in commercial orchards. Home fruit growers with a few trees can buy the product in smaller amounts. A 25 lb. bag should be sufficient to treat 10 trees over an entire season, according to a spokesperson at Fedco, an organic growers

supply cooperative that carries the product. Initial applications should be made two to three times the first week and every ten to fourteen days throughout the season, more frequently during rainy weather. Rates can vary, but 1/2 lb. per gallon is recommended for hand and backpack sprayers.

Literature on the product can be requested directly from Englehard through their website at www.engagehard.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fedco, (ph 207 873-7333; Website: www.fedcoseeds.com); or Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, Inc. (ph 888 784-1722; Website: www.groworganic.com); or Garden’s Alive (ph 812 537-8650; Website: www.gardensalive.com).



Applied in a spray solution, the light clay coating protects against most enemies of fruit.