**Pulling two 20-in. push mowers behind his riding mower lets Bob Simpson "reduce mowing time in half."**

# Ganged Mowers Cut A 6-Ft. Swath

"I've reduced mowing time in half," says Bob Simpson, Saskatoon, Sask., who built a hitch to pull two push mowers behind his riding mower.

The 20-in. push mowers are hitched behind a riding mower with a 38-in. deck so the three mower decks cut a 70-in. wide swath. A pull bar runs across the back of the riding mower and bolts onto the mower's hitch. The pull bar is made from two lengths of pipe welded to an angle iron bracket.

A pair of strap iron brackets attach to the front of the two push mowers. A hole was drilled into each bracket which fits over the axle under the front wheels. Rods run from the brackets up to pipe couplings welded onto the pull bar. The rods are secured at both ends by pins. One rod on each mower was made adjustable by cutting 1 in. out of the rod, threading it, and using a coupling nut to join the threaded ends.

"The pull bar on the riding mower is about a foot above the ground in order to hold the push mowers off the ground. The threaded rod on each mower allows me to keep the mowers tracking correctly. I mounted a truck mudflap on the right side of the pull bar in order to keep the riding mower's cuttings away from the push mower on that side.

"I left the handle on one of the mowers so I can detach it to mow in corners."

A kill switch was installed in the shroud of each motor. "It's a simple on-off slide switch with one pole grounded to a pop rivet holding the switch to the shroud, and the other pole connected to the coil wire which went to the original kill switch. It not only stops the motor but prevents accidental starting," notes Simpson.

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**Marty Garrett replaced the edging blade on his lawn edger with a "wobbling" circular saw blade. "It lets me follow along the roots and plane them off at ground level, without tearing up a lot of grass," he says.**

# Lawn Edger Converted Into "Tree Root Planer"

Marty Garrett, Louisville, Ill., had a problem that's common to many homeowners - pesky surface tree roots that got in the way whenever he mowed his lawn. He solved the problem by replacing the edging blade on his lawn edger with a "wobbling" circular saw blade.

"It's like an inverted table saw on wheels. It lets me follow along the roots and plane them off at ground level, without tearing up a lot of grass like a stump grinder does," says Garrett.

The purpose of the "wobble" in the blade is to widen out the cut, which produces a shearing effect. To get this effect he mounted a wobble washer - which is thin on one side and thick on the other - on each side of a standard 7 1/2-in. dia. carbide tooth circular saw blade.

"The teeth on the blade are 1/8 inch wide, but with the wobble action the blade cuts a much wider path that covers 13/16 of an inch," says Garrett. "When I'm done I just rake up the shavings and sawdust. Very little grass or soil gets torn up."

To make the conversion work, Garrett had to replace the original shaft that held the lawn edger blade. He also had to machine different bushings.

Garrett would like to find a manufacturer interested in the idea.

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**Using mostly junked parts, Harold Tribitt built this 4-WD articulated "mower tractor" equipped with a 6-ft. front-mounted deck that rides on a pair of caster wheels.**

# 4-WD Articulated "Mower Tractor"

"It's built tough and will outlast any commercial riding mower on the market," says Harold Tribitt, Revillo, S. Dak., about the 4-WD articulated "mower tractor" he built mostly from junked parts. It's equipped with dual wheels on front and back and a front-mounted 6-ft. deck that rides on a pair of 400.8 2-ply caster wheels.

The tractor's frame came off an International Harvester 37 disk, while the axles and 6.50 by 16 wheels are off a pair of 1960's Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickups. Tribitt cut the axles down to fit. Power is provided by a 4-cyl. water-cooled gas engine off an Owatonna self-propelled windrower. The 4-speed manual transmission is also off a 1960's Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup. The transfer case is home-built. The tractor articulates via a single 2 1/2-in. hydraulic cylinder that acts on a 1-in. dia. shaft.

Tribitt used sheet metal to build the deck, which is belt-driven off the engine. A small 1-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder that mounts under the engine serves as a belt tightener. Power steering is provided by a hydraulic pump that came off a combine.

"It suits my needs perfectly," says Tribitt. "I built it a few years ago after I had a farm accident in which I lost partial use of my right hand. It came in especially handy when I used to fly airplanes and had a 1/2-mile runway on my farm. I needed something that could mow fast. I usually mow in third gear at about 4 mph. The tractor's small size and dual wheels keep it from making ruts in soft ground like a bigger tractor would, and the engine and transmission are heavy duty.

"The back end of the deck bolts onto the side of the tractor. To remove the deck, all I have to do is pull two 1-in. dia. pins and slip the belt off. There's a full length roller on back of the deck and a short one on front to keep the mower from scalping."

Tribitt says he spent a total of about $1,200 to build the tractor, including about $700 for the eight new tires.

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# Trailing Mower Provides 7-Ft. Cutting Width

"It covers a lot of ground and trails straight even on sloping ground," says Roger Burgess, Modesto, Ill., who had a hitch built that lets him pull a 40-in. Swisher mower - equipped with its own 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine - behind his 48-in. Ariens garden tractor (Swisher Mower and Machine Co., Warrensburg, Mo. ph 800 222-8183; website: www.swisherinc.com/ridingmowers.html).

The hitch was built by Lloyd Meffert of Hetick, Ill. It consists of an angle iron pull bar that hooks up to the riding mower drawbar and pulls the 40-in. mower via two pin clips. Another angle iron is welded to the pull bar and runs diagonally up to the tractor frame, providing reinforcement to keep the trailing mower running straight.

"It lets me cut a total width of about 7 ft. which greatly reduces mowing time on my 4-acre lawn," says Burgess. "The riding mower is powered by a 17 hp Kohler engine so it has no trouble pulling the trailing mower. It pulls so easy I hardly even know it's there. We already had the Ariens mower and bought the trailing mower new for about $600. It only takes about a half minute to remove the trailing mower from the pull bar. The only limitation is that this system doesn't work real well for mowing up close around trees and shrubs. We use it mainly for mowing big areas."

**Roger Burgess had a hitch built that lets him pull a 40-in. Swisher mower - equipped with its own 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine - behind his Ariens garden tractor.**

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