



**“Fence Mower” deck swings back and forth on a pair of wheels on a curved steel track. It automatically glides around fence posts and other obstacles.**



**Rototiller-type spade works with mower blade to knock down mounded dirt under fence lines.**

## Heavy Duty Mower Designed To Clean Up Fence Rows

When neglected, old fence lines clog up with weeds and dirt builds up underneath. A new fence line mower is designed to mow the weeds and also remove dirt built up by throwing it away from the fence.

“It works great for mowing fence lines and will even disperse sand and dirt piled up in the fence row,” says inventor-manufacturer Larry Wright, Hempstead, Texas.

The pto-powered, 3-pt. mounted “Fence Mower” reaches right under fence lines, automatically gliding around all obstacles, including fence posts and trees. As the tractor drives parallel to the fence, the mower cuts away brush, saplings, tall grass and vines as it levels out mounds of dirt.

The self-retracting mower is available in a

23-in. cutting width. It’s just 5 3/4 in. high, allowing it to maneuver underneath the lowest fence wire. It’ll cut up to 12 inches on each side of the fence and throw dirt out up to 7 ft.

The mower deck is free-floating and is completely supported by a steel frame suspended from a pair of chains. The deck swings back and forth on a pair of pneumatic wheels that ride on a curved steel track. A stainless steel, angled wedge covers the front part of the mower deck while the other sides of the deck are open. As soon as the deck clears a post, spring action forces the deck to go back up under the fence line. A rototiller-type “spade” works with the cutting blade to disperse dirt.

You can set the tension on the spring based on how heavy the vegetation is.

“It lets you get down low and smoothen out everything under the fence line,” says Wright. “Because the deck doesn’t ride on wheels it’s able to get low to the ground without getting tangled up in vegetation. It’ll cut tree saplings up to 1 1/2 in. in diameter.”

According to Wright, in many states and provinces there are miles of fence line where nothing has been done for years to keep fence lines clean. “Eventually the vegetation gets so bad you can’t even see the fence. Some people use a chain saw to hack away at small trees, but that’s very labor intensive and you’ve still got to get rid of the dirt. The only other option is to use a bull dozer to clear

everything away and then put up a new fence,” says Wright.

“It takes a tractor with at least 40 hp to operate this unit. Smaller tractors work better because you can get in closer to the fence than you can with a big tractor.”

Suggested retail price is \$3,799. “We encourage dealers to rent our mower. In some areas, it could also be used to run a sideline business,” notes Wright, who adds that the unit will be demonstrated at the upcoming Sunbelt Expo near Moultrie, Ga.

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**Ramp assembly fits into receiver hitch. When needed, ramps fold out for loading without ever detaching from pickup.**

## Pickup Ramp Makes Hauling Easier

Shawn Horst and neighbor Denton Mastre of Grant, Neb., couldn’t find an ATV ramp for pickups that met their needs. They wanted one that was lightweight yet tough and that couldn’t shift while loading and unloading.

That’s why they ended up creating the Safe-N-Easy ramp.

What makes it unique is how it fits onto a receiver hitch and then folds out for loading without ever detaching from the pickup. A patent-pending hinge mechanism allows the ramp to fold up neatly behind the box and then pivot out quickly for loading.

The ramps are 65 in. long and will support up to 2,000 lbs. An 11-in. tall mini tailgate mounts in place of the original tailgate. It folds down to cover the bumper during loading. “The ramps are heavy-duty but easy to handle because you don’t have to lift the entire ramp, since the top edge remains attached to the vehicle,” says Horst, adding that you



**Hinge mechanism allows ramp to fold up neatly behind box.**

can’t lose the ramp either because one end is always attached.

Ramps sell for \$750. A center insert for mowers and 3-wheelers sells for \$75.

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**Home-built electric forklift is powered by two 12-volt deep cycle batteries that run for several hours on one charge.**

## Made-It-Myself Electric Forklift

“I can’t imagine how I would get along without it now,” says Doug Ripka, Rebersburg, Penn., about the home-built electric forklift he built. He’s used it to haul engines, transmissions, a lathe, cement mixer, and many other heavy loads.

It moves along at speeds of 2 mph, running on two 12-volt deep cycle batteries that run for several hours on one charge. He uses a 24-volt charger to recharge the batteries overnight.

A drum switch controls forward and reverse while the electronic speed control came off an electric bike.

The mast lift is a small DC motor that chain-drives a 2,000-lb. winch with a 3/16-in. steel cable that runs through two pulleys to increase lift capacity. It lifts loads up to 40 in. off the ground which is high enough to load a truck bed.

The forks are 24 in. long by 2 1/2 in. wide.

To stabilize the machine, Ripka puts 55 lbs. of weight on back.

Pneumatic wheels (16-4.80 x 8 duals in front and 10-3.50 x 6 in back) keep it going on uneven terrain.

The steering wheel came from a Chevy truck. The drive axle came from a “senior citizen” type wheelchair scooter, the rear axle from a Cub Cadet lawn tractor, and the mast tilt lever is the implement lift from a Ford garden tractor.

The frame and mast are made from steel stock from a welder friend.

He added headlights and a rotating orange light for night use and just for fun.

Ripka says he put about \$800 into the machine.

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