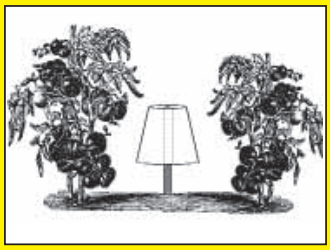
Reader Letters



Here's a simple way to control white flies in the garden without using insect spray or powders.

Just place a plastic soft drink up upside down on a stake between plants, spaced every 3 or 4 ft. Coat the outside of the cup with mineral oil. It'll attract flies, which will stick to the oil. ***(James P. Walsh, 34 Locust St., Merrimac, Mass. 01860)***

Your readers might get a kick out of the 1940's Clark military tug that I display at our local antique farm equipment show every year. The vehicle originally served as a tug to move airplanes on Navy aircraft carrier ships and has a hitch on front and back. I bought it from a Duluth, Minn., man who scrounges up antiques.

It's built very heavy with unbelievably thick cast iron steel - about 3/4 in. thick. The machine had to be heavy for maximum pulling and pushing power. Power is supplied by a 4-cyl. Continental 25 hp engine coupled to a 3-speed transmission. The transmission is geared really low and the vehicle has a top speed of only about 20 mph. At shows I drive the rig in high gear just so I can keep up with everyone else. It looks top heavy and it is - if I dropped one of the wheels in a deep hole the vehicle could easily tip over. ***(John Peternell, 35747 Co. Rd. 10, Albany, Minn. 56307 ph 320 845-2334)***

Just wondering if any of your readers know what this thing is? ***(John R. Lundgren, 2020 W. Jackson, Macomb, Ill. 61455 ph 309 333-4611 or 309 833-5245)***

My 45 hp tractor was a little too small to handle a 6-ft. hay bale so I built this 2-wheeled bale hauler and stacker using a two-stage mast off a Hyster hydraulic forklift, an 8-ft. house trailer axle and wheels, and an old steel I-beam for the tongue.

I use the machine to haul bales from the field to my barn and also to stack them. It's equipped with a spear on back and will lift bales up to 12 ft. high. The top part of the spear pins onto the mast while the bottom part clamps on. A big advantage of this design is that it keeps all the bale's weight off my tractor.

The 8-ft. wide axle provides stability when lifting bales high. The I-beam tongue is made from 1/2-in. thick steel and is welded to a length of steel tubing that goes all the way across the axle. U-bolts were used to clamp a 1/4-in. dia. rod on the mast to the axle. The axle has a slight upward bend, so when maximum weight goes on the axle, it straightens out. The mast weighs about 700 lbs.

A big wheel mounts above the tongue and is used to tilt the mast in order to keep the bale from falling off the spear. After raising the bale off the ground. I get off the tractor and turn the wheel about 10 times to tilt the mast six degrees forward. I'd like to use a hydraulic cylinder to tilt the mast so I wouldn't have to get off the tractor, but my tractor doesn't have dual hydraulic outlets.

I spent less than $300 to build it. ***(Hugh Kirby, 5043 State Route 121 North, Mayfield, Ky. 42066 ph 270 623-8730)***

My livestock tank guard is designed to save money on the replacement of floats and heaters. It also reduces labor and keeps animals from pulling floats and heaters from water tanks and chewing on cords. I haven't had to replace a single float or heater since I installed it three years ago. No injured animals, either. The unit can be moved from tank to tank. Readers can buy direct from me. Sells for $29.95 plus $15 S&H. ***(Robert E. Smith, 653 Rd. O N.E., Coulee City, Wash. 99115 ph 509 632-5787)***

Here's a photo of what I call my "Cass County Deer Stand". It's a bucket seat from a Chevy Cavalier welded onto a metal frame that fits into a 2-in. receiver hitch on front of a vehicle. I built it mainly for entertainment, but it has proven useful here at the U.S. Army's Camp Ripley in Minnesota.

The Army works with the state's Natural Resources Department every spring to survey the roadsides for turtle nests. It's a lot easier to do this with a vehicle-mounted chair than leaning out of a window for hours. We also use radio locators to find all kinds of animals from turtles and hawks to bears and wolves, scanning for signals from specific tagged animals. It's much easier to do this from the chair than holding the antenna out a window. It can be an exciting ride. The rider always wears a seat belt. I got the idea from the John Wayne movie "Hatari". ***(Keith Ferdon, 13134 57th Ave., Motley, Minn. 56466 ph 218 746-4485; keith.ferdon@us.army.mil)***

Here's a lawn chair I turned into a portable toilet by mounting a padded seat onto a worn out metal chair. A bracket goes underneath. I made it for a relative who's having knee surgery so she can have it by her bed . ***(Ken Voigt, 9208 Pasture Lane, Wausau, Wis. 54403 ph 715 842-8471)***

To use my 20-ft. ladder to cut branches safely, I mounted it on an old auger elevator I had laying around. The ladder bolts to the steel boom. It can't get loose. Then I attached a winch to the auger's frame and ran a 1/4-in. steel cable from it to the boom. It easily pulls the ladder and boom up to different angles.

A telescoping safety pole runs from the boom in case the winch cable breaks. I hook the auger to the front of my ATV or pickup and push it around. It's real handy on the farm. ***(George Wofford, 735 Hillis Cemetery Rd., Greenfield, Tenn. 38230 ph 731 235-2773)***

I couldn't justify spending the money for a self-propelled sprayer so I built my own. It's painted lime green and really looks nice.

I started with a 1979 Chevrolet 4-WD pickup and removed everything except the dash and the steering column. The top half of the cab is off a Massey Ferguson 510 combine while the rest of the cab is homemade. The pickup's air conditioner was added to the cab along with the combine's filtration system which uses a special chemical filter.

Proper ground clearance is achieved using custom made 11.2 by 24 wheels. The truck is equipped with a Blumhart pickup sprayer with a 45-ft. boom. It's powered by a Chevrolet 350 engine and can be driven safely at 35 mph on the road.

The truck itself cost about $1,400 to build and the used sprayer about $1,000. My total cost was less than $2,500, yet this machine works just as good as much more expensive commercial models. ***(Maurice Froehlich, 60600 190th Lane, Mankato, Minn. 56001 ph 507 245-3751)***