



Hydraulic-powered, loader-mounted trimmer lets John Ivers shape up a hedge fast.

## How To Trim A 300-Ft. Hedge In 15 Minutes

Hedges look great but when it comes to trimming them, the bigger they get, the bigger the hassle. John Ivers figured out a way to take the hassle out of the job by building a hydraulic-powered trimmer that can shape up a hedge fast.

"I have one hedge that's 10 ft. high and 350 ft. long, and I can do both sides and the top in 15 minutes," says Ivers. "That includes doing the top both ways to get any twigs that were pushed over in the first pass."

Ivers says his tractor loader-mounted trimming bar trims about any type of hedge. It can handle twigs up to about 5/8-in. diameter. Replacing the mower guards with combine guards makes it easier for the twigs to pass to the knife.

The trimmer uses a mower bar driven by a hydraulic motor via a shortened pitman drive. The pitman drive is from a no. 55 Deere combine, selected for its oscillating knuckle drive. Ivers took the shaft off the combine and mounted it in pillow block bearings with the knuckle at the end. At the base of the knuckle is a 32 tooth no. 50 sprocket. The entire unit mounts on a steel framework that bolts to the loader. To remove the trimmer, he simply removes four bolts and disconnects the hydraulic couplings.

"Originally I just mounted the sicklebar straight up and down," says Ivers. "Later I added a hydraulic cylinder so I could adjust it from vertical to a little above horizontal, from the tractor seat."



Trimmer can be pivoted to a vertical position to cut the sides of hedges.

Ivers admits it would have been nice and certainly simpler to go with a complete hydraulic knife drive. However, this way he has about \$300 invested in the motor and the two pillow block bearings. Everything else was basically scrap.

"I do have to slow down a little when cutting on the vertical as the knife will get out of balance a bit," he says. "If you start when the hedges are small and don't try to cut an 8-ft. hedge back to 5 ft., it works great."

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Bill Reeks made this "mini bridge" by cutting an electric pole in half and adding a deck made from scrap 2-in. lumber.

## Simple Do-It-Yourself Bridge

"I made this little bridge from an electric pole cut in half and decked with scrap 2-in. lumber I sawed myself on my homemade bandsaw mill. It extends over a steep ditch, giving me easy access to the field on the other side," says Bill Reeks.

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James Parker converted a huge sawdust hopper into this above-ground "playhouse".

## Big Hopper Converted Into Giant "Playhouse"

"It stands 40 ft. tall and offers great views of the surrounding countryside. On a clear day I can stand on top and see mountains 50 miles away," says James Parker, Vernon, Vt., who transformed a huge sawdust hopper into an above-ground "playhouse".

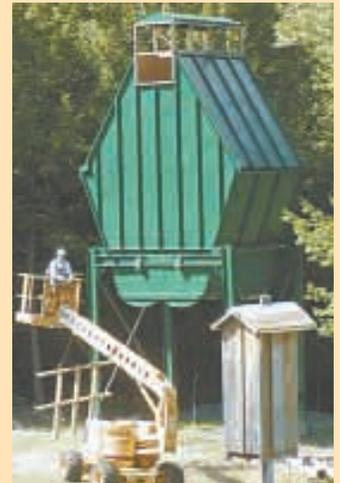
The slant-sided hopper was originally used by a local cabinet-making business to store sawdust. The hopper could hold up to 30,000 lbs. and was equipped with hydraulic-operated unloading doors at the bottom where semi trucks could load up.

He hauled the big hopper home, where he remodeled and enlarged it into a 3 1/2-floor "home away from home" that's complete with a "basement", main floor, loft, and 4 by 12-ft. lookout deck on top. He replaced the original wood sides with steel siding and added large windows to two sides of the building.

There are no stairs in the building - just ladders and a pair of "souped up" fireman's poles, with rungs in the middle.

"It's built solid - the I-beams are anchored in 20,000 lbs. of high density concrete so it will probably withstand 100 mph winds," says Parker. "I built it for my kids, and I'd like to think that 15 years from now kids will still be playing in it. There's a Franklin wood stove in the basement for cooking hot dogs. Each floor has 5-in. battery-powered lights attached to the walls, as well as ceiling lights. There's no electricity or water."

All the floors are built with steel subframes.



Slant-sided hopper has a 4 by 12-ft. lookout deck on top.

There wasn't room to winch an entire subframe up into the structure so he built them in two halves and then winched them up into place and welded them together. "The bottom floor will support 3,500 lbs.," says Parker.

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