



Forest undergrowth is reduced to small pieces after being cut and mulched by the BioBaler.



Baler has a 48-tooth rotor that chops a 7 1/2-ft. wide swath through heavy brush.

## BioBaler Cuts, Mulches And Bales “Waste” Wood

Brush, branches and forest undergrowth have always been treated as a waste product in years past. You can turn those products into a valuable resource to create heat and energy with a new biomass baler that will cut, mulch and bale in one pass.

The WB55-BioBaler is set to hit the U.S. market the end of this year, according to Tom King, president of SUPERTRAK, Inc., the U.S. distributor for the Canadian-built machine.

Pine, willow and poplar trees up to 6 in. dia. and 25 ft. tall — are reduced to strips no bigger than 2 by 12 in. after being cut and mulched by the powerful baler. Yet the baler is small enough to pull through 12-ft. openings, powered by a 150 to 200 hp farm tractor.

The baler has a 48-fixed tooth rotor and

chopper and cuts a 7 1/2-ft. wide swath. During research at a Georgia pine plantation, it cut 10.7 green tons per acre of gall berry, wax myrtle and sawtooth palmetto. Cost was less than \$9/bale, or \$17.60/green ton.

“The advantage to baling is you’re capturing material that’s only touched one time,” King says. Usually forest byproducts are handled a few times with piling, processing and transporting, and it’s not economically feasible to use expensive bunching and processing equipment. With the new baler, one person can do all the work and average 14 to 15 1,000 to 1,200-lb. bales per hour. The 4 by 4-ft. compacted and netted bales are easy to handle and load for transportation by tractors with hay spikes.

King says the baler offers a secondary

source of income on timber land because undergrowth can be baled every few years and sold.

Another option is to plant fast-growing woody crops such as willows and harvest them annually. A new federal program, the Biomass Crop Assistance Program, matches up to \$45/dry ton to stimulate biomass energy projects. King adds there are opportunities with a host of agencies including the Forest Service, and Departments of Transportation and utility companies that need right-of-ways cleared.

The WB55 BioBaler sells for \$125,000 in the U.S. In Canada it can be purchased through the Anderson Group.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SUPERTRAK, Inc., 26855 Airport Rd., Punta Gorda, Fla. 33982 (ph 800 466-9858; www.fldbiodmass.com)



The 4 by 4-ft. compacted and netted bales are easy to handle and load.

supertrak.com) or Anderson Group Co., 5125 De la Plaisance, Chesterville, Quebec, Canada GOP 1J0 (ph 888 833-2952; www.fldbiodmass.com)

## Self-Propelled “Garden Cart”

“I didn’t want to pay up to \$2,000 or more for a battery-powered nursery garden cart. So I built my own gas-powered model,” says Mark Jenkins, Nevada, Mo.

The low-profile garden cart measures 9 ft. long and has a 7-ft. long, 2-level table on front that holds up to 27 flats. The table, made from cattle panel welded to a metal frame, can be quickly removed by loosening three bolts.

The cart’s rear axle is off an old reel-type riding mower and is fitted with 3-ft. high lug tires, while the front axle is home-built and rides on 15-in. car tires. Power is supplied by a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine located next to the driver’s seat. The engine belt-drives an idler shaft that’s connected to a gearbox controlled by a hand clutch. A series of pulleys gear the engine down.

A sprocket is attached to the cart’s steering column to turn a shaft that extends all the way to the rods on the front axle. The seat is off a Deere tractor.

Jenkins has a greenhouse on his farm. He came up with the idea for the cart when he decided to sell plants at a festival.

“I transported the cart with plants on it in-

side a home-built, enclosed trailer equipped with a fold-up tailgate. Once I get to my location, I back the cart out of the trailer, drive it to my booth site, and start selling plants off it.

“It’s surprising how much power and traction this rig has. It rained a lot at the time of the first festival I attended, but even with the table loaded down with plants and with all that weight on front I had no trouble. The rear wheels sank 4 in. into the mud but they didn’t spin.”

He says the cart also works well for both planting and picking produce. “Last spring I used the cart to plant 400 tomatoes in a strag garden. I drove the cart into the greenhouse, loaded it up, and then drove to the garden site and started planting.”

He used mostly scrap materials to build the machine and two cans of spray paint, which was his biggest expense. “My total cost was only about \$35, including the paint,” he notes.

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Low-profile garden cart measures 9 ft. long and has a 7-ft. long, 2-level table on front that holds up to 27 flats.

Jenkins, who has a greenhouse on his farm, got the idea for the cart when he decided to sell plants at a festival.



## “Pig” Cleans Mud Out Of Gated Pipe

Bill Snodgrass, Casper, Wyo., uses a toy ball as a “pig” to clean mud and sand out of gated irrigation pipe.

“When using 8 and 10-in. gated irrigation pipe with an unlined ditch as the water source, mud and sand will accumulate in low places in the pipeline,” says Snodgrass. “Such settling, even on an ideal grade, tends to restrict water flow. But the big problem is that in lower areas the joints of the pipe will fill half or more full of heavy sand or mud weighing several hundred pounds. You can damage the pipe - and your back - trying to disconnect and move these joints.”

To clean out the pipe, Snodgrass uses a toy plastic ball that’s slightly smaller in diameter than the inside diameter of the pipe. While the water is running full bore and the far end of the pipeline is open, he inserts the ball into the inlet of the pipeline.

“The water speeds up as it pushes the ball and squishes around it, which loosens the mud and sand and forces it out the end of the pipeline,” he says.

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