



"It's big but still very maneuverable," says Dewayne Madoll about the 5-ft. zero turn riding mower he built out of a Versatile swather.



Mower is powered by swather's original 4-cyl., 28 hp Wisconsin engine and is equipped with a 60-in. Arts Way mower deck.

## "Swather" Zero Turn Riding Mower

Dewayne Madoll, Salol, Minn. built a powerful 5-ft. zero turn riding mower out of a Versatile swather and other salvaged parts, including a 60-in. Arts Way mower deck.

The mower is powered by the swather's original 4-cyl., 28 hp Wisconsin engine. The front caster wheels are from a Minnesota pull-type mower while the rear wheels are off a Polaris ATV.

"The rig is hydrostatic, with a zero turning radius, so even though it's big, it's very maneuverable," says Madoll. "All I bought were three belts and three pulleys. I spent only

about \$300 to build it. Even a used zero turn mower would have cost \$2,500 or more."

He started with a 1950's Versatile 400 zero turn swather, which he narrowed down so the wheels would match the width of the 60-in. mower.

Madoll says mounting the mower on the swather was simple. He built a bracket on back of the mower, so he could mount it where the header had fit onto the machine. The swather's upper header mount arms are used to lift the deck.

He used part of the frame off an Owatonna

swather to support the mower deck.

The final step was getting power to the mower, which was originally belt-driven. Madoll added a right angle gearbox on top of the deck. The engine pto-drives the gearbox, which uses a pulley to belt-drive the deck's blades.

"I use it to mow my 2 1/2-acre lawn. It works better than I had even hoped," says Madoll. "I can turn on a dime, and I have an excellent view of the deck in front of me. The seat is off a boat so it has a comfortable ride.

"I re-mounted the engine's muffler to

deflect heat away from the driver. I use the steering levers off a Sears Craftsman riding mower to turn, and a foot-operated peg to hydraulically raise or lower the deck.

"I happened to have a gallon of leftover Allis Chalmers paint so I painted the machine Allis orange."

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## Two Ways To Get Rid Of Carpenter Bees

Carpenter bees drill holes in wood where they nest and lay their eggs, which can be a real problem in any building with exposed wood. This new carpenter bee trap is designed to help eliminate the problem.

The holes in the Best Carpenter Bee Trap mimic the entrance to a carpenter bee nest, and the bees end up trapped in a plastic soda bottle. No bait or poison is needed.

The trap is designed to be placed on corners and peaks of buildings, preferably on the sunny side of the building where bee activity is the greatest. It consists of a small wooden house with angled sides and a flat top. There's also one flat side, allowing the trap to be screwed to wood directly over any existing carpenter bee hole.

An empty 20-oz. plastic soda or water bottle is screwed onto the bottom of the trap.

Once the bees get inside the trap they want to get out and fly toward the light inside the bottle. To do that they have to go through a little plastic funnel and then down into the bottle. When the bottle gets full of bees you unscrew the bottle, put a cap on it, and replace it with another bottle.

"It's the most effective carpenter bee trap on the market," says inventor Brian Blazer, Heflin, Ala. "The trap has a wire on top so if you want you can hang it from a rafter or the corner of a building."

In structures already badly infested with bees, Blazer offers a product called carpenter bee butter. "The bee butter will wipe the bees out due to the active ingredient pymethrin, which is contained inside a clear grease. You inject the grease into the bee's entrance hole. Any bee that goes into or out of the hole will

get grease on it and die.

"It turns every carpenter bee entrance hole into a bee trap," says Blazer. "It works much better than spraying pymethrin onto the wood because it actually gets the pymethrin on the bee and not just on the wood. It also works better than using pymethrin dust, which has only an 18-day residual before it breaks down. The grease protects the pymethrin so it'll last more than a year."

The carpenter bee trap sells for \$19.95 plus S&H. Carpenter bee butter treats more than 100 bee holes and sells for \$12 plus S&H.

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Carpenter bees enter through holes in small wooden frame and end up in a plastic soda bottle below, where they become trapped.

## Lightweight Aluminum Corn Header

A new corn header made in Argentina comes with some unique features – and an economical price.

The Allochis header is made by Allochis Division of Cabezales and distributed by Worthington Ag Parts.

The low profile header comes in two styles – steel and aluminum. The steel headers are used on smaller headers where weight isn't an issue. Aluminum is used on the larger headers. Steel headers come with a painted frame while the aluminum headers aren't painted. Both headers come equipped with plastic dividers in yellow or other colors, if preferred.

Headers are available in 18, 20, 22, 28, 30, 32, 36, and 38-in. row spacings. Allochis offers 6, 8, 10, 12 and 16-row headers in 30 – 38-in. row spacings and up to 20 rows on 22-in. spacings.

All headers come with a feature that allows you to insert different adaptors to fit any U.S.-built combine. Other features include hydraulic-operated stripper plates and clear

plastic inspection windows in the shields.

"It's a lightweight, no frills, low-profile corn header that sells for 20 to 25 percent less than OEM models," says Carl Vande Weerd of Worthington Ag Parts. "The aluminum construction reduces the header's weight considerably, which is a big advantage as combine headers keep getting bigger. Some people have asked whether a header made with aluminum will hold up in the field. Due to Allochis's extensive three-year testing program, we know the Allochis header will stand up."

A 12-row header was field tested last year in the U.S. It was first installed on a Deere 7700 silage cutter to grind ear corn. The customer used it to grind about 1,300 acres in tough field conditions. The header was switched to a Case New Holland 7120 combine and harvested about 3,000 acres. "When I talked to the customer they were harvesting 225 bu. corn at 19 percent moisture while traveling at 4 mph," says Vande Weerd.

The estimated cost of a 12-row, 30-in.



Low-profile Allochis corn header is available in either aluminum or steel. Features include hydraulic-operated stripper plates and clear plastic inspection windows in the shields.

header equipped with hydraulic deck plates to fit a Case New Holland or Deere combine is about \$66,000. "That's an economical alternative to higher priced OEM corn heads with the same or better functionality," he notes.

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