

## Reader Recipes

We're looking for unusual, innovative, or just plain good-tasting recipes. If you have a favorite you'd like to share, send to: Reader Recipes, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

### Green Corn & Blueberry Pudding

3 cups fresh corn kernels  
2 cups blueberries  
3 tbsp cornstarch  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/8 tsp nutmeg or allspice  
4 eggs, separated  
1 cup heavy cream  
4 tbsp butter  
Mix corn and blueberries with salt, sugar, cornstarch and nutmeg. Beat egg yolks into cream and pour over corn mixture. Stir in the butter. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into mixture. Pour into a buttered 2 qt. baking dish. Bake at 350° for 30 to 45 min, until firm in the middle.

### Cracker Jack Cookies

1 cup butter  
1 cup white sugar  
1 cup brown sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 1/2 cups flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp baking soda  
2 cups quick oatmeal  
1 cup coconut  
2 cups Rice Krispies  
Cream butter well and add sugars. Beat in eggs, add vanilla. Sift flour, baking powder and soda and add to mixture. Stir in oatmeal and coconut. Mix Rice Krispies in by hand. Drop by teaspoonful onto greased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 10 to 12 min, or until nicely browned.

### All-Purpose Spray Cleaner

1/4 cup white vinegar  
2 tsp borax  
30 oz. hot water  
1/4 cup Palmolive dish soap (not anti-bacterial)  
20 drops essential oil (try "tea tree", if available)

Pour vinegar into a 32 oz. spray bottle. Dissolve the Borax in hot water and add to bottle. Add the dish soap and essential oil. Cover and gently shake to mix.

## "Soap Nuts" Replace Laundry Detergents

Soap Nuts are actually berries that grow on trees in India and Nepal. If you throw a few in with your laundry you won't have to use soap, says Greener Living Products Ltd., a Saskatchewan company that imports them. The large quantity of saponin in their shells acts as a natural, gentle detergent when they come in contact with water. Without chemicals, fragrances or dyes, they're safe and gentle for handwashing delicate clothes, yet tough enough for regular laundry. You won't even have to use fabric softener. And because they don't produce a lot of suds, you can use them in both top and front-load washing machines.



Four nuts go into a small muslin bag (provided) and will last for 4 to 6 loads of laundry.

According to the company, Soap Nuts can also be used in place of hair shampoo and to replace other household cleaners. You can even use them to make your own dishwasher soap. How-to instructions are included.

A trial size bag containing 4 soap nuts, in which you can test 4 or 5 loads of laundry to see how they work, sells for \$1.69 plus S&H. A 2.2-lb. bag of Soap Nuts sells for \$39.99 plus S&H and will wash 300 to 400 loads of laundry. A 1.1-lb. bag that can do 150 to 200 loads of laundry sells for \$24.99 plus S&H.

A set of 10 muslin cloth wash bags sells for \$4.99 plus S&H. The company also offers Soap Nuts bath bars that sell for \$8.99 apiece plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greener Living Products Ltd., c/o Matt & Erin Johnson, P.O. Box 1356, Melfort, Sask., Canada S0E 1A0 (ph 306 752-0709; info@buysoapnuts.com; www.buysoapnuts.com).



Shelled peas fall through chicken wire drum (left) and into bucket. A fan blows off debris.

## High Capacity Pea Sheller

Henry McCullough of Pittsview, Ala., raises 1 1/2 acres of peas and gets them shucked in no time with a pea sheller he made about 5 years ago. He pours in two 5-gal. buckets of peas at a time and within 2 to 3 min., hulled peas roll out into a bucket, ready to freeze or give to friends.

McCullough, 67, is a heat and air conditioning worker by trade. He got the idea for his sheller after seeing another home-built unit.

McCullough first made a 24 by 36-in. chicken wire drum with a 12 by 36-in., 18 gauge stainless steel access door suspended horizontally above it. They mount inside a 48 by 30 by 50-in. box with an oak frame covered by 3/4-in. plywood and a hinged door at the top. The drum is turned by a 1/6 hp gear reduction motor that McCullough salvaged from a job.

The inside of the cage has five sets of three 1 by 1/4 by 9-in. beater bars welded 6 in. apart to a 1-in. stainless steel shaft supported by two 1-in. pillow block and 1-in. surface bearings and turned by a 3/4 hp motor.

McCullough experimented with getting the right gear reduction with pulleys on both motors to get the right speed.

"The first time I ran it I found out the rpm's were too fast and cracking peas, so I slowed it down with a larger pulley on it," McCullough says. He used 14-in. and 4-in. pulleys to get the right gear reduction on the 3/4 hp motor.

After that it worked perfectly. He fills the drum with peas, turns on the motors, and the beaters crack the hulls and the shelled peas fall through the chicken wire and down a 1/4-in. screen into a bucket. McCullough runs a fan next to the screen to blow off debris. When the peas are all hulled, he positions the drum so he can open the cage secured by three window latches and drop the hulls into a hull box that pulls out to empty.

"It's best to pick your peas and air dry them for 24 hrs. They shell better," McCullough says, adding the peas should be fully mature at the green stage before they are picked.

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## "Peel & Stick" Caulk Easy To Apply

It takes a pretty steady hand to apply caulk to bathroom fixtures and countertops without messing up. Greg Amundson's patent-pending peel & stick "caulk" is a combination of two quality products – a flexible pvc and an industrial foam adhesive. The wedge-shaped strip is easy to apply and stays securely in place.

The Scandia, Minn., businessman used downtime as a post-and-beam cedar home distributor to focus on making better caulk that doesn't mold and looks attractive.

"I wanted to make something anyone could apply," he says. The soft (but not stretchy) tape has wings that conform to corners and irregularities of walls, floors and counters to make a tight bond. Simply clean the surface, remove the backing tape and press the strip into place.

# FARM SHOW

New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home



Photo courtesy The Brainerd Dispatch

Garden beds made from fuel oil barrels are easy to reach.

## Fuel Oil Barrel Helps Her Keep Gardening

Thanks to an old 265-gal. fuel oil barrel cut in two, Rose Mogensen can still grow a garden. At 75, the Brainerd, Minn., woman gardens from a motorized cart due to arthritis, the loss of a leg and an ankle brace.

"I planted my garden about two weeks ahead of everyone," Mogensen says, noting the barrel's steel helps warm the soil. In 2010, she harvested her first carrots, peas and potatoes on June 29.

A friend had an old, unused barrel, and Mogensen's grandson cut it in two with a welding torch after first purging the tank. Family members bolted on 1 1/2-in. pipe legs so the beds are about table height. They put holes in the bottom of the barrel halves and thoroughly washed them out before filling them with soil from a nursery. Mogensen added composted cow manure for fertilizer.

"It's so easy to take care of," she says. She can easily reach to the center of the 4-ft. bed to plant, weed, water and harvest. One barrel half has rows of carrots, onions and radishes. Another has peas and tomatoes. Mogensen also has 50-gal. plastic barrels filled with beans and cucumbers.

"It's something that most anybody who can't get on the ground can do," she says. "A lot more people are gardening now, because groceries are so high. You can grow what you like."

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