



Strahle uses his home-built firewood pallets to haul and store split wood. Pallet is shown setting on 2 by 6's on concrete to keep it from freezing to the ground.



Labor-Saving Firewood Pallet System

"My pallet-based firewood system was inspired by other firewood pallets I've seen in FARM SHOW. Some of them were quite fancy, but I made mine on the cheap," says Dennis Strahle, Eagle, Mich.

The firewood pallets he builds are closed at one end and open at the other. A home-built, 3-pt. mounted fork is used to move them around.

He uses 4 pallets - one for the bottom and 3 for the sides. The sides are wired to each other at the top and bottom corners and also to the bottom pallet. A single wire strand extends across the top at the open end to keep the sides from springing out too far.

"I use electric fence wire because it's tough, yet easy to handle," says Strahle. "It takes a little practice to wire the pallets securely."

He says his pallet firewood handling

system results in much less handling of firewood. "I load wood into pallets for drying and storage, and then unload it directly into my outdoor stove."

Strahle built extensions for the 3-pt. fork and drilled a hole in them so he can tow his log splitter to the woods. "I place the splitter next to the open end of the pallet, then load the split wood on to the pallet," says Strahle. "I don't want the pallets to freeze to the ground so I sometimes set them on top of a regular pallet."

He protects the pallets with plastic covers that are stapled to the side pallets and to the firewood. The ends are left open. The plastic keeps rain and snow off.

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Horse-drawn log wagon is fitted with 8 bogie wheels, allowing it to carry a lot of wood over rough ground.

Logging Wagon Maxes Out Horse Power

Clearing out timber with horse power is easier with this new log wagon fitted with 8 bogie wheels and a braking system. Built by the Swedish company Osterby Smedja, it's designed to carry a lot of wood over rough ground.

"Using horses for low impact logging is catching on, but it's limited by the amount of timber you can move with a log arch or other devices," says Carl Russell. "Saw logs are easy to move with a horse, but pulpwood and firewood are harder. The SV5 triples the amount of low grade timber you can remove and makes full use of your horses."

Russell imported the first SV5 into North America and is now using it for his Vermont forestry business. The eco-forester is working with Osterby Smedja to introduce and promote the wagon among horse loggers.

"I've used it mainly for firewood this winter, but at a field day, we rolled saw logs on it from a cut bank alongside a road," says Russell.

The SV5, with its 4 1/4-ft. by 9 3/4-ft.

loading space, can easily handle a 2-ton load with a single horse. A team can handle more. The wagon is designed so logs and other timber extend out past the rear axle.

Russell notes that in addition to the greater volume, the brakes make hauling safer for man and horse. Floating disc brakes on the 8 front bogie wheels allow halts to rest the horses when going up a hill.

Tires are reinforced with Kevlar for added durability. "The SV series will never be mass produced; they're all hand-built and high quality," says Russell. "The company only uses TIG welds with most parts hot dip galvanized and others powder coated."

"The regular price of the SV5 is \$10,500," says Russell. "The first 10 to order one will get a \$600 discount, bringing the price down to \$9,900."

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"Stump Anchor" Braces Wood Splitter

John Houston's "stump anchor" makes it easy to hold his log splitter in place, without tying up his pickup.

"I prefer to use the splitter in the horizontal position when splitting large wood because I can work at waist height. Attaching the splitter's tongue to a big tree stump keeps the splitter from bouncing around without the need for a truck or some other piece of equipment," says Houston. "It consists of nothing more than a large angle iron with a ball hitch bolted to one end. The angle iron is bolted down to the stump, which is 2 ft. tall and about 30 in. in dia."

Houston used his chainsaw to cut a long groove into the top of the 30-in. dia. stump, so that the angle iron sets flush with the stump's surface. He used a pair of 6-in. lag bolts to attach it to the stump.

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"Stump anchor" consists of piece of iron with a ball hitch bolted to one end. It bolts down to stump and sets flush with its surface.



Michael Reedy's home-built stump grinder is powered by a 9 hp side shaft motor that belt-drives a cutter wheel on front.

Home-Built Stump Grinder Gets The Job Done Safely

FARM SHOW reader Michael Reedy contacted us to say that he was inspired by a homebuilt stump grinder featured in a past issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 36, Issue 6). The Powell, Tenn., resident had about 20 stumps around his home, and his mother had a large 4-ft. sugar maple tree stump in her yard.

Reedy built the frame from scrap steel. He already had a 9 hp side shaft motor to power it. For the cutter wheel, he purchased 12 Rayco stump-grinder teeth from Baileys (www.baileysonline.com) and bolted them on a 48-tooth, No. 60 chain sprocket with 5/8-in. grade 8 bolts.

"I mounted the motor and cutter wheel to a 3/8-in. steel plate that slides to adjust belt tension. I added a clutch wheel (with a golf ball handle) to tighten the belts while operating and a kill switch on the handlebars for safety," Reedy says.

He also cut a guard out of two layers of a 15-gal. plastic barrel to cover the cutter wheel to stop flying wood chips.

Making a machine safe to run was important to Reedy, as the grinder is operated by his best friend Rickey and his son. Reedy is in a wheelchair so he doesn't operate the grinder himself.

A 2 3/4-in. pulley on the motor and 4 1/4-in. pulley on the cutter wheel shaft provides about 2,000 rpm's to the cutter wheel.

"Rickey, who is only 160 pounds, says it works well, and he can handle it without straining," Reedy says. "Since it's only 9 hp, he has to be careful not to put too much pressure and stall it out."



A clutch wheel with a golf ball handle is used to tighten the belts. Cutter wheel was made by bolting 12 Rayco stump grinder teeth onto a 48-tooth chain sprocket.



The stump grinder operates by pushing the grinder wheel down by lifting up the handlebars made out of bent 3/4-in pipe and moving them side to side. Despite its relatively small size, the grinder can take out a 12-in. hardwood stump that is 6 in. tall in about 15 minutes.

With less than \$400 invested in it, Reedy says the grinder paid for itself just getting the stumps out of his yard.

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