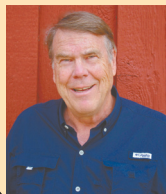


Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher



To make a garden trellis, Chuck Angier staples the ends of cattle panels to chunks of 4 by 4's and sticks them into cement blocks.

Nifty Gardening Ideas

Long-time subscriber Chuck Angier is an innovative guy who runs Angier Agri-Services, Sandy Level, Va., an online seller of garden supplements. Chuck's been working in ag for 50 years. He tests all products himself and all photos on his website were taken in his garden. He even does the website himself and warns visitors, "I don't know squat about designing websites, so get used to it!" (www.angierag.com; ph 434-688-2208).



Mature cukes dangle from trellis, making them easy to pick.

Anyway, a couple of Chuck's gardening ideas recently caught my eye. The first one was the idea of "being the first in your neighborhood to have fresh sweet corn" by starting corn plants inside the same way you might start tomato or pepper plants. He starts several flats of corn a few weeks before he can get into the garden, then transplants them when they get to be a couple inches tall. "Some people call it cheating, but I call it smart," says Chuck, who likes being the first to have fresh corn in early summer. He says corn is more resistant to frost than most people think. "At first my gardening buddies had great fun at my expense, but now they're all doing it."

The second idea Chuck passed along is a simple way to make trellises out of 16-ft. long cattle panels. He staples the ends to chunks of 4 by 4's and then inserts them into cement blocks. He sets them up so they're about 5 1/2 ft. tall at the peak. Cucumbers and beans hang down inside, making them easy to pick. At the end of the season, he can easily stack the trellises alongside the garden.

Thieves Stealing Birch Trees

Law enforcement officials in the Midwest say there's been a rash of illegal cutting of small birch trees that are being smuggled out and sold as decorations in stores and online.



A hot market for birch branches has triggered an increase in illegal birch tree harvesting.

We're not talking just a few trees, but thousands of small birch cut, bundled and carted away off public and private land. They're sold as rustic northwoods decorations for homes and events, especially weddings. A Wisconsin forester said 1,800 trees were cut in one remote area of a national forest. Buyers want branches cut before sap starts running so they mostly cut during fall and winter.

Unlike loggers, birch branch thieves can haul a valuable load away in a pickup or trailer. Officials say wholesale buyers are posting birch-wanted ads on Craigslist, paying between \$1 and \$3 per branch. Menards sells birch "poles" online for \$6.99 and on Amazon you can buy four 48-in. poles for \$45.99.



Using painted parts he bought online, Roger Gutschmidt repaired his 2006 Dodge Stratus for \$1,000 worth of parts - versus the body shop estimate of \$3,453.

Lower Cost Way To Do Body Work

Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak., is a great friend to FARM SHOW and one of the most innovative people you'll ever meet. He recently sent me a note:

"I had to repair the front end of our 2006 Dodge Stratus after my daughter hit a deer. Did you know that you can buy hoods and fenders online that are all pre-painted and ready to install? Just go to Painted Autobody Parts (www.paintedautobodyparts.com; ph 630-458-0082) and give them your paint code and they'll send the parts out. The paint color was perfect and the savings were huge compared to conventional body work. I ordered all the other parts - grill inserts, headlights, and radiator support - from other suppliers. All parts fit like a glove."

Here's how Roger's project penciled out:

Front bumper skin	
His cost:	\$271 plus \$71 shipping
Body shop est.:	\$388 plus \$1,045 for painting
Hood Panel	
His cost:	\$366 plus \$72 shipping
Body shop est.:	\$272 plus \$1,045 for painting
Headlight assembly	
His cost:	\$66 for a pair
Body shop est.:	\$285 for each - \$570 total
Radiator support bar	
His cost:	\$71
Body shop est.:	\$121
Grille panels	
His cost:	\$83 for all new parts
Body shop est.:	\$12 for used parts

Tax Assessments For Rural "Money-Making" Activities

For the past 15 years or so, a section of FARM SHOW has been devoted to "money-making ideas to boost farm income" (see pages 6 to 9 in this issue). Until about a week ago it had never dawned on me that starting a farm-based enterprise might have severe tax consequences. Then I read an article in the Canadian magazine *Better Farming*.

Although the article was about taxation in the province of Ontario, there are probably other areas of Canada and the U.S. where taxing authorities are looking for extra revenue. The article explained how starting a money-making enterprise on your farm in Ontario can dramatically increase property tax by changing the status of property from "farming" to "industrial". The resulting increase in taxes could easily make the farm business unprofitable. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has been lobbying hard on the issue for years and hopes to improve the situation soon.

Liberty Quotes

"I prefer liberty with danger to peace with slavery."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

"One evening, when I was yet in my nurse's arms, I wanted to touch a tea kettle, which was boiling. My nurse would have taken me away from the kettle, but my mother said, 'Let him touch it.' So I touched it - and that was my first lesson on the meaning of liberty." *John Ruskin*

"The more laws, the more offenders." *Dr. Thomas Fuller*

"A society that does not recognize that each individual has values of his own which he is entitled to follow, can have no respect for the dignity of the individual and cannot really know freedom." *Fredrich August von Hayek*

"It is not the business of government to make men virtuous or religious, or to preserve the fool from the consequences of his own folly. Government should be repressive no further than is necessary to secure liberty by protecting the equal rights of each from aggression on the part of others. The moment governmental prohibitions extend beyond this line, they are in danger of defeating the very ends they are intended to serve." *Henry George*

"My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government." *Thomas Jefferson*

"Better to starve free than to be a fat slave." *Aesop*

"Your freedom is the most expensive thing that you own, even if you didn't pay for it yourself." *Anonymous*



Underground forms made by the artist allow roots to grow into beautiful patterns as they search for nutrients.

Artist Works With Living Roots

Instead of paints, German artist Diana Scherer trains living roots to grow into intricate patterns.

The Amsterdam-based artist uses oats and wheat, growing them in specially-designed forms that guide the plants' roots into specific patterns as they search for nutrients they need. Once the plant roots have finished weaving and braiding themselves beneath the ground, she unearths the molds and photographs the living tapestries. To see more of Scherer's work, go to: <http://dianascherer.nl>

"Fancy" Money Worth Extra

That \$1 bill in your wallet might be worth more than face value if it has an unusual serial number, according to a recent report in the *Wall Street Journal*. Collectors are willing to pay a premium for "fancy bills" that have a unique string of digits printed on them. Low serial numbers are especially popular, according to sites like CoolSerialNumbers.com. An eBay seller was recently asking \$114.99 for a \$1 bill with the serial number 00000046. Collectors also seek out "ladders", where the digits ascend or descend (like 12345678); "radars" where the numbers read the same back and forth (12344321); and repeaters (20152015).

Points To Ponder

"The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." *Harper Lee*

"It's a rare person who wants to hear what he doesn't want to hear." *Dick Cavett*

"It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err." *Mahatma Gandhi*

"A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." *Eleanor Roosevelt*

"Make sure you have finished speaking before your audience has finished listening." *Dorothy Sarnoff*

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice note saying that I approved of it." *Mark Twain*

"The older I get, the less I listen to what people say and the more I look at what they do." *Andrew Carnegie*

"Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." *Winston Churchill*

Ole told Sven he was going to go on a diet. "It's got so bad dat if I drop a dime, I have to pay a kid a nickel to pick it up for me."

"Dat's me too, Ole," said Sven. "I used ta pinch an inch. Now, I grab a slab."

Ole finally saved enough money to go to Hawaii. As he stepped off the plane, a beautiful girl put a Hawaiian flower lei around his neck, gave him a peck on the cheek, and said, "Aloha from Hawaii."

Ole quickly replied, "Ole Olson from Nor Dakota!"

As Ole headed off to college, he told his girlfriend Lena that he was planning to be both a veterinarian and a taxidermist. "Dat vay," said Ole, "I figure dat no matter vhat happens, people vill always get dere animals back!"

Lena came home from town and Ole said, "Lena, vhat did you do to your hair? Dat almost looks live a vig."

"It is a vig," said Lena.

"Oh, vell, you'd never know dat. It looks reel natural," said Ole.

In church one Sunday the preacher said, "Anyone with special needs who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the altar."

Ole hopped right up and the preacher asked, "Well, Ole, vhat do you want us to pray for?"

Ole replied, "Vell, I need you ta pray for help with my hearing."

The preacher put one finger of one hand on Ole's ear, placed his other hand on top of his head, and then prayed fervently for Ole while the congregation joined in.

After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back, and asked, "Ole, how is your hearing now?"

"I don't know," said Ole. "Da hearing is not 'till Tuesday!"