

Side Mount Mowers Get The Job Done Faster

Charles Anderson

Charles Anderson stops traffic near Sunburg, Minn., when he mows under his mature evergreens. He doesn't worry about scratching his John Deere riding mower because an inexpensive push mower attached to an 8-ft. 2 by 4 does the mowing.

"I have a dozen evergreens next to the highway, and with this I can get right under them," Anderson explains.

He took the handle off the push mower and mounted the throttle by the motor. Three chains and eye hooks connect the 2 by 4 to

the mower. On the riding mower, Anderson used two existing holes to bolt the 2 by 4 to the bumper.

"I kept it short for easy backup, but I could have used a 9-ft. board," he says. It doesn't take long to join the two mowers when he needs to mow under the evergreens about four times a season.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Anderson, 720 Hwy. 104 NE, Sunburg, Minn. 56289 (ph 320 366-3682; chuckbarb19@yahoo.com).



Attaching a push mower to an 8-ft. long 2 by 4 lets Charles Anderson mow under evergreen trees.



Add-on boat winch lets Joe Bowers lift his swivel sidearm mower vertically to cut shrubs and bushes or drop it down to mow ditch banks.

Joe Bowers

In Finleyville, Penn., Joe Bowers' mowing challenge was nearly 2,000 ft. of yard alongside a creek. Tired of weed whacking the slanted slope, he decided to try to make something out of an old grooming mower someone had given him. Using miscellaneous parts and channel iron, he built a heavy-duty swivel sidearm mower that hooks up to the 3-pt. hitch on his Deere tractor.

"The challenge was figuring it out so the belt didn't change when the mower swivels," Bowers says. He solved the problem by mounting two bearings and pulleys on the shaft. He can lift the mower with the 3-pt. hitch over objects, but it usually runs along

on its wheels. The mower works great for following the angle of the creek bed and the level ground next to it.

As an extra feature, Bowers added a boat winch to crank the mower vertically to cut shrubs and bushes for himself and his neighbor.

"It used to take me 6 hrs. with the weed whacker and now I can do it in 20 min.," says Bowers.

Contact FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Bowers, 17 Sneer Rd., Finleyville, Penn. 15332 (ph 724 348-7519; michelefoster2@comcast.net).



Mower hooks up to the 3-pt. hitch on Bowers' Deere tractor. He uses it to mow 2,000 ft. of creek bank.



Rob Ribar built this hitch to pull two 22-in. push mowers behind his Wheel Horse riding mower. The 3 decks cut an 88-in. wide swath.

Rob Ribar

"It works even better than I expected and has reduced my mowing time in half," says Rob Ribar, Reedsville, Wis., who built a hitch to pull two push mowers behind his riding mower.

The 22-in. push mowers are hitched behind a Wheel Horse riding mower with a 48-in. deck. The three decks cut an 88-in. wide swath with a 1-in. overlap per mower. An angle iron pull bar across the back of the riding mower mounts on the mower's hitch. Steel bracing bolted to both sides of the pull bar provides reinforcement.

Metal brackets attach to the front of each push mower and are bolted to the pull bar. The brackets attach to the mowers by a bolt that runs through a hole drilled into the mower deck, with a pair of nuts tightened to the inside and outside of the deck.

"It's fun to mow with this setup, and it works fast. I can mow 3 acres in a little over an hour," says Ribar. "The ganged mowers go around and under trees as well, if not better than the riding mower alone."

"As the riding mower's rear wheels turn, they cause the push mowers to track right behind. A 16 hp. engine powers the riding mower so it has no trouble pulling the trailing



Mowers hook up to an angle iron pull bar that mounts behind riding mower.



David Rhodes converted the deck off an Allis-Chalmers 917H garden tractor into this "Sidewinder" mower.

David Rhodes

In Michigan, David "Dusty" Rhodes built a "Sidewinder" mower using the deck off an Allis-Chalmers 917H garden tractor. He used an electric motor and a belt-driven 120/240-volt generator to power the deck.

With a power cord attached to a volt meter and on/off switch in a box with a magnet on the tractor hood, Rhodes operates it from the tractor seat. Angle iron bolted to the front of the tractor connects to a conduit drawbar on front of the 4-ft. mower deck. To prevent the mower deck from swiveling in the back, he ran conduit between the tractor hitch and

deck, by bolting flat iron pieces with openings for the conduit on the deck.

"I added caster wheels on front of the deck so it can only move with the mower," Rhodes says, adding he also bent a piece of conduit in front to create a simple brush guard.

Rhodes has a zero-turn mower he uses for cutting the rest of the lawn and only uses the A-C mower around trees.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Rhodes, 2504 Hartel Rd., Charlotte, Mich. 48813 (ph 517 667-8980; Rhodes_d@att.net).

mowers. It only takes about a minute to remove the trailing mowers from the pull bar. I removed the handles on both mowers so they won't get caught on trees and shrubs."

Ribar used a 1/2-in. bolt with a nylon nut where the metal brackets attach to the front of each push mower, "which allows the push mowers to float up and down over uneven terrain."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rob Ribar, 3538 Greenview Court, Reedsville, Wis. 54230 (ph 920 860 5523; robribar@comcast.net).