

Andy Rushing has a large garden and wanted a low-cost way to make raised row beds.



Metal wings on back of tiller extend out from both sides of tiller housing to form raised bed.

He Builds Raised Beds With His Rototiller

"I converted my 3-pt. mounted, 5-ft. wide, pto-driven rotary tiller into an all-in-one tiller, raised bed row builder, and seed furrow opener. I plan to add a fertilizer applicator, planter and seed furrow closer to it. There's nothing like it on the market," says Andy Rushing, Hemphill, Texas.

He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a working model he made by using side panels off an old washing machine, 2 by 4's, and 1-in. angle iron, mounting the parts on back of the tiller.

"I have about a 1/4 acre garden where I grow tomatoes, bell peppers, zucchini squash, purple hull beans, snap beans, red beans, and corn. I wanted a machine that would let me build raised rows that remain

year around, similar to raised bed gardens," says Rushing. "Raised beds warm quicker and control erosion on my hillside garden. Excess rain is held in the row middles instead of running off."

The tiller came with a rear metal guard door, which Rushing raises to the fully open horizontal position and locks into place with an adjustable chain. Metal wings on back of the tiller have 2 by 4's attached to the top and bottom for strength. The wings extend out from both sides of the tiller housing and beneath the raised door. Each wing is held in place by 2 bolts that go through the top of the door down into the 2 by 4's.

"The opening between the wings is used to form the raised bed, which can be adjusted

to the desired width," says Rushing. "I screw an L-shaped metal panel onto the wings to level the raised bed to the desired height. A single V-shaped treated plywood board is used to open the seed furrow, or if I want I can attach 2 V-shaped boards to make double seed furrows."

"I generally use the double furrows to plant peas and snap beans in rows 6 in. apart. I use a landscape rake to cover the seed, leaving a shallow trough over the seed to water seeds in," says Rushing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andy Rushing, 1494 Busby Point, Hemphill, Texas 75948 (ph 409 489-2164; candyrushing@msn.com).



Machine builds raised rows that remain year around. Excess rain is held in row middles instead of running off.

Homemade ROPS-mounted tool holder allows Pat Lundstrom to carry various tools, or even a gun, with him on his tractor.



Handy ROPS-Mounted Tool Holder

"Using off-the-shelf components, I made a handy ROPS-mounted tool holder for less than \$100. It lets me carry various tools, or even a gun, with me on my tractor," says Pat Lundstrom, Floodwood, Minn.

Lundstrom operates a small hobby farm with free-range chickens. "Coyotes will occasionally snatch up chickens, and I often see them while working in the field," he says. "I tried carrying a gun with me so I could pick them off, but it either got banged up or, if I put it on my lap, made the tractor hard to operate. I searched online but couldn't find anything that looked like it would work for me."

"I realized I'd also like to be able to carry shovels, axes and other long-handled tools."

The rifle and tool holder is made mostly from steel tubing and flat steel. It clamps onto one side of the ROPS with 4 bolts. The tool is held in place by plastic ratchet-type clamps similar to ones that bolt onto an ATV rack. The base is a length of tubing with a slot cut into it. "The combination of the ratchet-type clamp and the slot in the base keeps everything secure. I've plowed and disked with tools in the holder but never had anything bounce out," says Lundstrom.

He sells plans for his tool holder for \$14.95.



Tool holder bolts onto one side of ROPS and uses plastic ratchet-type clamps to hold tool in place.

Just go to the www.gizmoplans.com website and type in "tool holder".

He uses the tool holder on his Kubota L4600 50 hp. tractor, but says the detailed instructions make it easy to alter to fit other tractors with different size ROPS. "All the information you need to build the holder is included with the plan, as well as purchased items that you need and their parts numbers," notes Lundstrom.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pat Lundstrom, 11765 Clark Rd., Floodwood, Minn. 55736 (ph 218 476-2670; peatfarmer@hotmail.com).



To keep his Honda walk-behind rototiller from digging too deep, George McKenzie mounted a 3 by 8-in. pneumatic tire on front of it. "It works unbelievably well," he says.

Wheel Keeps Rototiller From Digging Too Deep

"Our Honda F110 walk-behind rototiller used to jump all over and dig itself into the ground so deep that it couldn't even move forward. I solved the problem by mounting a small 3 by 8-in. pneumatic tire on front of the machine. The difference in how well it works is unbelievable. Now I can operate this rototiller with one hand," says George McKenzie, Brownvale, Alberta.

He used a 1-in. wide, 5/16-in. thick metal strap to attach the tire to the rototiller's frame, bolting one end of the strap to the wheel hub and clamping the other end to the frame in 2 places. The bracket is designed so McKenzie can set the rototiller at various depths.

"Finding the right balance between the wheel and the machine was tricky. I worked for 2 1/2 weeks before I got it to work right," says McKenzie. "The big advantage is the wheel stabilizes the rototiller so it doesn't jump all over. It adds less than 8 lbs. to the machine's weight."

"At first I tried using a solid rubber tire, but it didn't roll well on soft ground. I didn't try to use a caster wheel because it might turn sideways and dig into the ground."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George McKenzie, P.O. Box 3, Brownvale, Alberta Canada T0H 0L0 (ph 780 597-3950; geomck@wisternet.ca).

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