

Tractor Fountains Entertain Visitors To Texas Orchard

A pair of tractor fountains may not have anything to do with the peaches, strawberries and other produce at Efurd Orchards, but they sure grab your attention.

Which is exactly why Greg Efurd parked them in a shallow pond along busy U.S. 271 in Pittsburg, Texas.

He had the Farmall B tractor installed in the 5-ft. deep pond about 10 years ago. Efurd drove four pipes deep in the mud and welded two “saddles” to hold the frame of the tractor just above the water. A 10 hp pump sprays water through 2-in. pvc pipe that comes up through the hood.

“The biggest challenge was when a friend used his trackhoe to pick up the tractor and set it in place,” Efurd recalls.

With the help of a crane, lifting the John Deere G tractor in place was less stressful 5 years ago.

Both tractors were “junked” but Efurd keeps them looking good with new paint every couple years.

One pump powers both fountains from



A pair of tractor fountains, parked in a shallow pond along a busy Texas highway, entertains visitors to Efurd Orchards.



the first of April through Halloween when Greg and Amy Efurd close up their farm’s produce stand for the year.

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“Poor Man’s” Air Conditioner

Leslie Shamburg, Monte Vista, Colo., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the evaporative “swamp cooler” he built out of a 55-gal. plastic barrel.

“I call it a ‘poor man’s’ air conditioner. It cost only about \$150 to put together,” says Shamburg.

He started with a 55-gal. plastic barrel and used a hole saw to cut the lid out. A 120-volt water pump sets on the bottom of the barrel and a 20-in. dia. fan lays face down on top of the barrel. The bottom 1/4 of the barrel is filled with water.

Water is pumped up into a clear plastic hose that wraps around the outside of the barrel, which has a row of 5 spray nozzles inside it. The nozzles, spaced 1 1/2 ft. apart, mount 1 1/2 ft. above a row of 2-in. dia. holes that Shamburg cut into the barrel. He bolted a 6-in. wide strip of “miner’s moss” (Home Depot or Amazon.com) over the holes inside the barrel. The nozzles spray water onto the miner’s moss and the fan blows the cool, saturated air out through the holes.

“I made it early this summer for a friend who owns a local bar and bowling alley. Cool, moist air is evenly dispersed out through the 24 holes in the barrel,” says Shamburg. “I got the idea from the internet where someone was using a 5-gal. bucket with a fan on top. I used a 55-gal. barrel to get more capacity. If I want real cold air I place a block of ice in the water.”



Shamburg built his “Swamp cooler” out of a 55-gal. plastic barrel with a fan on top that faces down into the barrel.

A small pump pulls water out of the bottom of the barrel to side-mounted nozzles, which saturate “miner’s moss” that covers 5 aeration holes cut into the side of barrel. Air is cooled as it passes through the wet material.

To hold the miner’s moss tight against the barrel, Shamburg cut a length of plumber’s strap into 3-in. long pieces that serve as washers. He uses a shut-off valve mounted inside the barrel to turn the water on or off.

He got the barrel from a local chemical dealer and says he spent about \$35 for the fan, pump and fittings. “I use a 130-gal. per hour fountain pump that doesn’t use a lot of electricity,” he says.



Shamburg also made a similar air conditioner for his own use except that it has 2 rows of holes - 48 in all - for increased cooling ability and a 12-in. wide strip of miner’s moss. He says he’s willing to sell plans for the air conditioner.

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