

# Loader-Mounted Brush Trimmer Clears Trails Fast

When Lawrence Kring, Hammond, N.Y., read an article about a walk-behind tree trimmer made by another FARM SHOW reader a few years ago, he figured he could improve on it.

"After a bit of experimenting, I came up with a frame-mounted saw that quick-taches to the loader arms on my Deere 1050 35 hp., 4-WD tractor," says Kring. "I use it to trim overhanging brush on ATV, snowmobile and hiking trails that I made on abandoned property I had bought several years ago. It can cut branches anywhere from 18 in. off the ground to as high as the loader can reach."

He started with a 28-in. buzz saw blade he already had, and mounted it about 20 in. off to one side of a 12-ft. long steel frame that quick-taches to the loader. The saw is belt-driven by a 13 hp. Harbor Freight Predator electric start gas engine that's mounted at the center of the frame. Three 12-in. wide wooden skids at the bottom of the frame keep the saw from digging into the ground.

A homemade steel box welded to the frame supports the shaft that drives the saw. Kring

cut up a 35-gal. barrel to make a pair of covers for the belt system and the shaft.

"It works even better than I expected. The engine can run all day long on a tank of fuel," says Kring. "I added a couple of switches to the electric start engine so I can turn it on and off from the tractor seat. I couldn't use the tractor's hydraulic system to power the saw because it doesn't have enough capacity.

"I spent a lot of time figuring out how fast to operate the engine. I found that the saw cuts better with the engine at half throttle than at full torque. I leave the belt loose to serve as a slip clutch, which gives me enough time to turn off the engine if the saw pinches."

He says the saw drops cut material to the ground instead of throwing it back toward him, and works just as well with the tractor backing up as going forward. "Branches can hang up to 10 ft. over the trail, but I usually cut off just 3 ft. of them at a time to keep from pinching the saw," says Kring. "After I'm done cutting brush, I use a 3-pt. mounted bush hog to go down the trail and grind up the cut-off material.



Frame-mounted buzz saw blade quick-taches to the loader arms on Kring's 4-WD tractor.

"I also use the saw to trim overhanging branches that hinder machinery on the edges of fields."

The loader didn't come with quick-tach brackets so Kring made his own and bolted them on back of the frame. They have curved steel hooks at the top and lynch pins at the bottom, which makes hook-up an easy job. "If I want, I can move the entire unit back and

forth across the frame," notes Kring. "I try to keep the saw out far enough to keep cut-off branches from dragging on the valve stems on the tractor's tires."

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## Bin "Skirt" Works Better Than Sealants To Keep Moisture Out

"Grain bin owners face a never-ending problem of moisture seeping into the bottom of bins, even if they're sealed with foam or tar. That's why we went looking for a better solution," says Ben Casper of Moveit, Inc. Casper says their All-Bin Flex Skirt, with U.S. and Canadian patents, wraps protection around the base of any size bin and is a permanent solution to a serious problem. The skirt isn't damaged with the expansion and contraction of bins like present-day sealants are.

Casper developed the Flex Skirt after years of resealing his 8 bins every year, including one 65,000 bushel bin. After installing his Flex Skirts, he says grain around the inside base of the bins remains dry and in good condition rather than moldy and clumpy from moisture seeping in. And he doesn't have to re-seal the bins every year.

The two-part Bin Skirt includes corrugated and flexible metal sheeting that deflects snow and water away from the base of a bin. The 9-in. tall corrugated skirt rests at an angle about 3 to 4 in. away from the bin on the concrete base and is attached to the bin about 6 in. up from the base. A smooth metal

seal covers the top of the corrugated skirt and screws lightly to the rib. Foam sealant is applied away from the base of the bin inside the skirt to seal out any moisture.

"The Bin Skirt fits any diameter bin including those with outside stiffeners," Casper says. "Installation is easy using a 5/16-in. nut driver on a cordless drill, an angle grinder, a cut-off wheel, and a tie-down strap. Inspection doors allow the owner to check inside the skirt at any time for rodent control."

The bin skirt costs \$5 per foot and includes the corrugated skirt and the splash deflector metal flex cover, along with fastening hardware and foam dam sealant. Outside stiffener covers are optional. To determine the amount needed, multiply the bin diameter by 3.22.

Moveit offers a 15 percent discount for orders of more than 1,000 ft. and a 25 percent discount for orders of more than 2,500 ft. Small orders ship by FedEx ground and larger orders by motor freight.

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Flex Skirt wraps around base of bin to keep moisture out and is unharmed by the expansion and contraction of bins.

## Hemp Harvester Handles Big Stalks

Hiniker's new hemp harvester takes the grunt work out of medicinal hemp harvest. The 3-pt. mounted machine cuts the stalks and conveys them gently, but firmly, into a following truck or wagon.

"We needed a machine that could adjust to varying row spacings used in the new industry," says Matt Morrison, Hiniker. "Producers haven't settled on a common row spacing, so we went with a 1-row machine."

Hiniker originally considered using a sickle bar cutter that could handle up to 3 rows, depending on spacing. After sharing the design with producers, feedback suggested a lower-cost, single row machine.

The end result was a heavy-duty, 6,500-lb. harvester that looks something like an early corn picker. Two counter-rotating augers grab the stalks. They pull them into 2 high-speed, pto driven, 3-blade rotary cutters.

"We quickly learned that a sicklebar wouldn't be robust enough," says Morrison. "Our 1,000 rpm rotary cutters can cut any diameter stalk."

Once the cutting system was in place,

the next big challenge was the 42-in. wide conveyor. The round stalks tend to roll back down a conventional conveyor, forcing it to be kept to a lower angle. Hiniker went a different route.

"We went with a pinch conveyor system that consists of an upper and lower conveyor," says Morrison. "It pinches down on the stalks as it carries them up. This lets us keep the conveyor at a steeper angle while treating the plant gently, which is key."

The conveyor speed is adjustable from within the cab. It can go slowly and drop the plant off or be more aggressive and throw the plants.

Adjustable gauge wheels control the height of the cutters. An operator controlled, hydraulic leveling feature adjusts for hillsides. The speed of the augers can be controlled with the pto driven gearbox and throttle control.

Replacement cutters are available at most implement dealers. Morrison suggests the 1-row machine will be relatively easy to expand to additional rows if desired.



Hiniker 3-pt. hemp harvester cuts stalks and conveys them into a following truck or wagon.

The 1-row machine is priced at \$53,500. It can harvest about 15 acres of 40-in. rows per day, traveling at 4 1/2 mph. It went through initial testing in 2019.

"We have a couple of machines in the field this year for final evaluation and plan to introduce it for sale next year," says

Morrison. "We will start taking orders in October, with a second ordering period in April for the 2121 season."

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