



Uhnken built a tractor around a brush originally manufactured for clearing light snows off sidewalks and roadways.

Self-Propelled Lawn Sweeper

By C.F. Marley

You've never seen anything like this "one and only" self-propelled leaf sweeper designed and built by B.L. Uhnken, Jacksonville, Ill.

The brush he used was originally manufactured for clearing light snow off sidewalks and roadways. Uhnken acquired it from a nearby hospital with the idea of building a rig to clear leaves out of his yard along with balls from sweet gum trees.

Once he had acquired the brush, Uhnken set about building an appropriate tractor around it. He used the rear end from a Deere hydrostatic garden tractor and built a frame onto it out of 3 by 3-in. sq. tubing with a single steering wheel up front.

Uhnken built an arch into the front frame so he could raise and lower the brush. The front steering spindle consists of a vertical

shaft held in place by combine bearings. The front wheel is turned by a V-belt pulley that mounts on top of the spindle. A steel cable wraps around the pulley and runs back through pulleys to a windlass mounted on the steering wheel shaft.

Power is supplied by an 18-hp. Wisconsin engine. Uhnken used a hydraulic pump off a Deere 6600 combine to drive the broom by way of a Char-Lynn orbit motor. The brush turns at about 100 rpm's. It's raised and lowered by a lift mechanism powered by the pump that drives the rig's variable speed hydrostatic drive.

The brush came with its own cowling and caster wheels.

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"I WOULDN'T WANT TO FARM WITHOUT IT"

750-Gal. Home-Built "High Pressure" Washer

By Janis Schole

Although many farmers get by without owning a pressure washer, John Rozak of Waskateneau, Alberta, says he wouldn't want to farm without his. Of course, he doesn't have just any pressure washer. He completely designed and built it himself to fit his own needs.

Rozak, who farms 1,300 acres with his brother Pete, says his pressure washing system can deliver up to 1,700 lbs. of pressure although he usually needs only about 10 to 20 lbs. for general use. The system produces hot, soapy water which Rozak says is effective on grease. Temperature and soap levels are adjustable.

The system cost little to build using a variety of parts he had lying around the farm. It's housed inside a spare building he already had on the farm which has a concrete floor and is completely insulated, but he says most any small building would do. He heats the shed in winter time with nothing more than a small electric heater.

The building houses a 500-gal. water tank to which Rozak adds 2 gal. of powdered soap after the tank has been filled. Another 250 gal. tank supplies rinse water.

A 3500 7-hp. electric motor powers the

\$800 industrial high pressure (3-piston) water pump which runs the pressure washer. Water is pumped from the main 500 gal. tank to the heating system outside the building which consists of two modified oil burners and the body of an old oil furnace. Water runs through 170 ft. of coil made from 3/4-in. copper tubing which wraps around the oil heater. A 30-gal. oil tank fuels the heating system.

Rozak says he started out using only one oil burner in the furnace body but found that the water didn't get as hot as he wanted so he added another burner at the other end. He can control heat of the water by limiting or lengthening the amount of time water is allowed to circulate in the tubing before he begins washing. In less than a minute or two, water is boiling hot.

From the heater, water travels out to the spray nozzle through 3/8-in. dia. single-braided hydraulic hose, which he had to use to stand up to the high pressure (standard air hose, for example, would burst under the pressure).

Hose runs 20 ft. up in the air to a 12-ft. long swiveling support arm at the top of a pole. With 50 ft. of hose in all, Rozak says



A 30-gal. plastic spray tank is bolted to center section of disk. Note nozzle placement.

TWO NOZZLES ON OUTSIDE REAR GANG APPLY CHEMICALS ON DEMAND

Disk-Mounted Sprayer Keeps Field Edges Clean

"I got the idea for adding this field edge sprayer to my Case/IH 496 disk because every year weeds and briars seemed to creep out a little further into the field and tillage wouldn't always do the trick. As far as I know, there's nothing like it on the market," says Chris Malott, Bethel, Ohio.

He mounted a 30-gal. plastic spray tank on brackets that he special-built to bolt to the center section of the 496 disk, positioned just behind the tractor hitch. A small 12-volt spray pump (the kind used on small lawn sprayers) mounts just below the tank. There's also a 1/2-in. hand valve that's used to adjust pressure and an electrically-activated solenoid that controls flow of chemical from the tank to nozzles mounted on the outside gang.

Two flat fan nozzles, fed by 1/2 in. dia.

plastic hose, mount on the back rear corner gang. One nozzle points straight back and the other sprays to the side.

"I have two switches in the cab. One turns on the pump, which automatically recirculates chemical back up to the top of the sprayer tank, and the second activates the electric solenoid valve which sends chemical out to the nozzles. I put a pressure gauge on one nozzle to measure pressure initially and just leave it there," says Malott. He uses either Roundup or a brush killer, depending on what he's spraying.

"This was the first full year I've used it and it worked very well. I'd like to find a manufacturer for the idea," says Malott.

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Water is pumped from 500-gal. tank inside building to outside heating system.

he can wash two or three vehicles or pieces of equipment without stopping to move them.

Because the water heater is located outside the building, Rozak has to blow water out of the heating coils with an air compressor in the winter.

"One thing I would do different would be to build the shed 4 ft. wider so I could put the burner inside, enclosed by a steel box for safety," he says.

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