Leonard used all new parts to put together his wide front mower.

4 MOWERS ATTACH TO FRONT OF GARDEN TRACTOR

Ganged Front Mowers Cut An 80-In. Swath

Mounting four brand new 20-in. Lawnboy mower decks in a frame attached to the front of a garden tractor helps Ontario farmer Basil Leonard give his 5 acres of farmyard a hand-groomed appearance that he says he couldn't get with a pull-behind mower.

"I had been using a Woods mower on the back of my 1035 Massey tractor but I wasn't happy with the quality of the cut and the fact that the tractor had to rev at a high rate of rpm's to power it. I wanted to find a way to cut the grass before driving on it and get the quality of a hand mower cut. I also wanted to cut a wider swath to save time mowing," says Leonard.

He first designed a tube steel frame which attaches to the front of the tractor on a pivoting universal-type joint. The front of the frame is supported by two caster wheels. Inside the frame, he mounted four new 20-in. rotary mower decks. "They're connected by link chain in such a way that they float up and down yet are held in perfect relationship to one and other," says Leonard.

The wheels on the sides and back of the frame are caster-mounted except for three inside wheels which are mounted on a common axle - one wheel between every two mowers. The four connected mowers are then attached to the steel frame by a series of chain links and brackets.

"The net result is that I can now mow approximately 81 in. per pass. I cut the grass in half the time and achieve the quality of a hand-mown job. Not driving on the grass before I cut it makes a big difference and, most important, the tractor runs virtually at idle.

"Total cost of the project was $1,800, including four Lawn Boy mowers at $300 apiece and $600 for the frame, wheels and modification to mowers."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Basil J. Leonard, Rt. 4, Sunderland, Ontario L0C 1H0 Canada (ph 705 357-2406).

This 1,600-gal. overhead tank is refilled by garden hose. It lets Cook fill sprayer fast without the need for an expensive transfer pump.

Mover mounts on auger axle. Tongue attaches to hitch on pickup bumper.

MAKES IT EASY TO MOVE AUGERS

Auger Mover Hooks To Pickup Bumper

"I have been farming on my own without any extra help for a number of years and needed an easier, safer way to move big grain augers so I built the first E-Zee Auger Mover about 2 1/2 years ago for my own use. It worked so well I've started manufacturing them," says Sterling McAlister, McAlister Mfg., Tompkins, Sask.

The auger moving attachment is designed to let you maneuver big augers around the farmyard with a pin hitch that attaches to the front bumper of a pickup. It consists of a V-shaped frame - made out of sq. tubing - that bolts to either side of the auger axle and extends out under the upper end of the auger. A telescoping brace runs from the V-shaped hitch up to a bracket attached to the underside of the auger.

When hooked up to a pickup, grain truck or even a tractor, the auger can be easily backed into the unloading door of a grain bin or towed around the farmyard. When not in use, the hitch folds up under the auger.

The hitch weighs about 50 lbs. and installs without welding on Brandt or Sakundiak augers. Can be custom-fitted to other augers, as needed. Suggested retail is about $160.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sterling McAlister, McAlister Mfg., Box 341, Tompkins, Sask. S0N 2S0 Canada (ph 306 622-4433).

TAKES 15 MIN. TO EMPTY 1,600 GAL. TANK

Water Tower Fills Crop Sprayers Fast

A Kansas farmer has come up with a fast, inexpensive way to fill his crop sprayer and nurse tanks. He built his own 14-ft. high water tower.

Jay Cook, who farms near Dighton, says his water tower cost only $1,000 to build and is more dependable than a transfer pump because it doesn't require any power source.

"I came up with the idea because I didn't want to spend the money for a transfer pump that I would only use once a year," says Cook. "My water tower is trouble-free and it takes only 15 to 20 min. to completely drain the tower's 1,600-gal. poly tank. I couldn't have justified the cost of a transfer pump with that much capacity. I use a 1 1/2 hp electric pump and garden hose to pump water from my well into the tank. The pump's 7 gal. per min. output closely matches that of my sprayer. I mounted a timer for the pump on a nearby utility pole. I can set it to fill the tank in anywhere from three to six hours. When I leave for the field I know that the tank will be full when I get back.

"My water tower is also a benefit to the community because water is often in short supply here. Neighbors occasionally use the tower to fill their spray tanks. The well is 600 ft. deep so it never goes dry."

Cook got four 12-ft. steel I-beams 10 in. wide from a salvage yard and used them to form the tower's legs. He bolted each I-beam to a concrete pier that's set over a 12-in. deep concrete footing. He made the platform on top of the I-beams out of heavy angle iron, steel pipe, and thick sheet metal. A short steel pipe that comes out of the bottom of the tank is hooked up to a 2-in. dia. plastic discharge hose. A long plastic overflow pipe at the top of the tank prevents water from falling onto the sprayer fill-up area if the tank overfills.

A pair of cables, lined with plastic to prevent corrosion, cross over the top of the tank and secure it to each corner of the platform. "The tank has withstood 80 mph winds without any problems," notes Cook.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jay Cook, Box 944, Dighton, Kan. 67839 (ph 316 397-2200).