

Gravelly Mower Cuts X-Mas Trees

"We've cut more than 2,000 trees a year for the past eight seasons with no problems or maintenance at all other than coating the blade with grease to prevent rusting," says Kenneth D. Scheetz, Coshocton, Ohio, about the tree cutter he made out of a Gravelly self-propelled mower.

He says it would also work great for clearing brush and small trees from land for anyone who doesn't need it for tree cutting.

Scheetz simply converted a standard 30-in. rotary mower deck by cutting out an 8-in. wide, 12-in. deep notch on the front. He then replaced the original mower blade with a circular 24-in. dia., 65-tooth carbide tipped saw made with .150 in. thick stock by a manufacturer near his home.

"It can be adjusted from 2 1/2 in. to 4 1/2 in. off the ground using Gravelly spacers provided with the mower. We adjust height depending on field conditions to minimize saw contact with rocks or frozen ground. Since the saw blade is enclosed, except for the cutting slot, I consider it to be safe. It requires minimum physical effort to operate. We fit it with

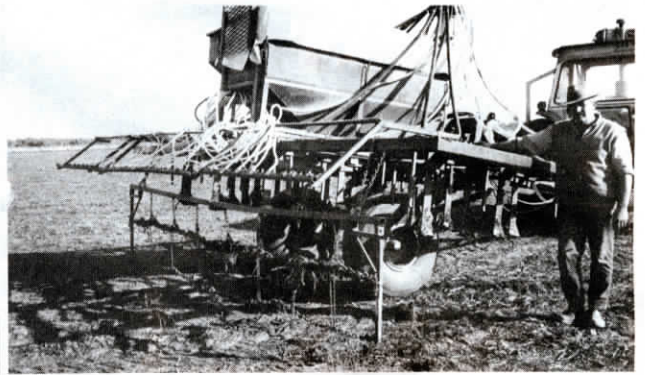


chains in slippery conditions.

"Actual cutting time of a 4 to 6-in. trunk is about one second. It helps to have a helper there to pull the tree backwards - either by hand or with a pitchfork - to keep the tree from setting on the saw blade and causing a stall.

"We can cut a stand of trees at a rate of 300 trees per hour without the wet knees and needles down the neck which go with the job when using a chain saw."

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Aussie-Built No-Till Air Seeder

Innovative Australian farmer Derek Barnstable built his own no-till air seeder featuring straight shanks with a new type of point that's designed to penetrate even the hardest soils, a clamp-on system for shanks that requires only a hammer, and a simple new metering system for seed and fertilizer that has only one moving part.

Barnstable farms in a part of Australia that has very hard duplex soils. He wanted to no-till small grains and grasses but couldn't maintain consistent depth control with existing field cultivator type air seeders. He also didn't like the design of existing air seeder venturi mechanisms which he felt were too complex.

He designed 5/8-in. wide, 24-in. long straight shanks with high strength and rigidity. They attach to the 3 1/2-in. sq. tool bar with a C-clamp that's held in place with a heavy steel pin that can be knocked out with a hammer. Makes changing row spacing a quick and easy job. Key to success of the straight shanks are the new-style 3-in. wide points which are designed to draw down yet keep furrowing to a minimum. The shanks generally run 4 to 5 in. deep with fertilizer dropped at the bottom of the point. Seed is dropped through a boot on a hinging bracket behind the shank. Seed depth is varied by moving the seed boot closer to or further away from the shank (the closer it is to the shank, the deeper the seed is placed). Barnstable generally seeds 1 1/2 to 2 in. deep.

The hopper is divided into two bins which each hold about 1 ton of fertilizer or seed. Can be loaded by auger or there's a fold-down ramp that lets you walk up to it with a wheelbarrow. Bins are not pressurized. He used a modified Accord air system that's got just the one moving part that meters seed or fertilizer into the air stream. No venturi's needed.



Because there's little soil disturbance, a simple straight chain harrow is all that's needed behind the seeder. The high ground clearance makes point changing easy and prevents trash plug-ups. Grass seed can be seeded ahead of the chain harrow via a small seed hopper that can be attached to the side of the main hopper.

Barnstable would like to find a manufacturer for his air seeder in North America.

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Gooseneck Adaptor Hitch Makes Pulling Trailers Easier

"I built this hitch because pulling a travel trailer on the bumper hitch of a compact pickup didn't seem safe to me. It worked so well I also use it with my utility trailer," says Bill Padgett, Ona, Fla., about his gooseneck adaptor hitch that lets you pull a standard straight tongue ball hitch with a fifth wheel hitch.

The lower end of the gooseneck consists of a wrap-around drawbar fitted with a ball hitch. The trailer, which is not

modified at all, hooks to the ball hitch while hitch brackets clamp to either side of the trailer tongue.

"There's no more whip or sway to the trailer on the highway when semi-trucks pass. Handles like a dream. I've pulled my travel trailer over 10,000 miles with no problems at all," says Padgett.

One person can move the hitch from one trailer to the other with the aid of two dolly wheels. Padgett uses a removable



plywood wind deflector when pulling the travel trailer. It mounts on top of the gooseneck and has storage inside.

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