

Leaf Spring Dandelion Digger

By Janis Schole

If you're tired of pulling dandelions, you'll like the home-built digger Herb Kuhn came up with to remove the pesky weeds from his strawberry beds.

The Barrhead, Alberta, farmer's invention disturbs less soil than a spade and makes it easy to get the whole root. It works so slick, Kuhn's built about a dozen of them for friends and neighbors since coming up with the idea three years ago.

It consists of a 3 to 3 1/2-ft. long leaf spring off an old car. Leaf springs are tapered on one end like the shank on a chisel plow so it's ideal for the business end of the digger, Kuhn notes. Two 1-ft. long, 1/2-in. dia. pieces of pipe weld to the spring - one near the top for a handle, the other about 8 in. from the bottom for pushing the digger into the ground with your foot.

"It lifts out the entire plant, root and all, so it's unable to re-establish itself," Kuhn says. Kuhn sells the diggers for \$25 (Canadian).

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herb Kuhn, R.R. 3, Barrhead, Alberta, Canada T7N 1N4 (ph 403 674-5938).



Digger consists of a 3 to 3 1/2-ft. long leaf spring off an old car that's pushed into the ground with your foot. "It lifts out the entire plant, root and all," says Kuhn.



Moss built this bumper-mounted deer guard for his 1988 Ford F-250 pickup.

Pickup Sports Heavy-Duty Deer Guard And Tailgate

"Factory-built deer guards are mostly for looks, but I built one heavy enough to prevent damage no matter how hard you hit a deer," says Don Moss, who put the deer guard on his 1988 Ford F-250 truck.

Area farmers were so impressed with the Tallula, Ill., repairman's design, he's custom-built a half dozen others for sale.

He started with two uprights running from the bottom of the bumper up to the hood. He cut them out of 1/4-in. thick steel and covered them all around with 1/8-in. thick steel plate.

Horizontal bars, bent on each end to conform to the contour of the front end of the truck, are made of 1-in. dia. Schedule 40 pipe.

He sells the deer guards for \$500.

He also made a heavier-built tailgate for the truck which allows him to work on the tailgate without bending it.

"Original tailgates are pretty flimsy," he says. "You can bend them simply by standing on them."

He built a frame out of 1 1/2-in. sq. tub-



He also made a heavier-built tailgate for the pickup which allows him to work on the tailgate without bending it.

ing, 1/8-in. thick. He covered it with expanded steel to let air pass through.

The tailgate handles heavy weights and still keeps its shape.

Cost about \$500 to build.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Moss, R.R. 1, Box 27, Tallula, Ill. 62688 (ph 217 634-4158).

"Triple Hopper" Seed Trucks



Removable wooden box is fitted with 3 compartments to handle different soybean varieties in Thoele's 2-ton truck. A 14-ft. drill-fill auger mounts on back.

Truck Box Divided Into 3 Compartments

Joe Thoele, Teutopolis, Ill., uses a removable wooden bean box with 3 compartments to handle different varieties of soybeans in his 2-ton Chevy truck.

What makes it handy is that all three compartments empty out through sliding gates at the back of the truck. Seed from the front hopper feeds out through a hollow center partition.

The box measures 12 ft. long and 8 ft. wide and is divided into a 60-bu. front compartment and two side compartments that hold 90 bu. each. A 14-ft. long, 6-in. dia. folding drill-fill auger mounts on back.

"My dealer uses a forklift to load mini bulk seed bags into the compartments," says Thoele. "I used it for the first time last spring and it worked great. The only problem was that the corners in the front compartment didn't clean out completely. I plan to add some flashing in the corners to solve the problem.

"It takes only about 8 minutes to fill my 15-ft. drill. A hand-operated winch is used to fold or unfold the auger, and a push button valve at the back of the truck is used to start and stop it.

"It takes about an hour to install the box and mount the auger and about 30 minutes



Compartments empty out through sliding gates at back of truck. A rope and pulley are used to lift each gate.

to remove them. Lengths of channel iron are used to secure the box to the truck's stake pockets. I use a length of channel iron that mounts across the back of the truck to support the pulley that raises or lowers the auger. The top of the box is equipped with curved steel bars for attaching a hand-cranked roll tarp."

The triple seed box was originally built by George Holsapple of Jewell, Ill.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Thoele, RR 1, Box 73, Teutopolis, Ill. 62467 (ph 217 857-3738).



Stienessen mounted 3-hopper bulk seed handler on his Chevy C-50 2-ton truck. A brush auger runs under the three hoppers to back of truck, where a second brush auger can be swung out and up for filling planters and drills.

Truck Fitted With Triple Hoppers

Gary Stienessen, Taunton, Minn., built a 3-hopper bulk seed handler that mounts on his Chevy C-50 2-ton truck.

The entire unit is 15 ft. long and attaches with four bolts, allowing it to also be mounted on a wagon running gear or goose-neck trailer. Each hopper holds 60 bu. A brush auger runs under the three hoppers to the back of the truck, where a second brush auger can be swung out and up for filling planters and drills. An electronic digital weigh scale on back allows

Stienessen to weigh seed as it's loaded or unloaded.

"It lets me carry three different kinds of seed at once. It also can be used for other operations. For example, I can use it as a weigh wagon during harvest. I also use it to haul feed to my cattle. The weigh scale really comes in handy for figuring lbs. per acre during planting," says Stienessen.

Sells for about \$7,000 without the scale.

Contact: Gary Stienessen, Rt. 1, Box 23, Taunton, Minn. 56291 (ph 507 224-2236).