

Wireless Weather Station Beams Data Home

You don't have to run any wires to set up the wireless remote weather stations sold by Davis Instruments, Hayward, Calif.

They transmit data to remote display consoles using 900 MHz low-power radio waves.

According to marketing vice president Joan Peterson, there's nothing else like the company's new Vantage Pro system on the market.

"Setup is quick and easy and thanks to the built-in solar panel, you don't even have to run power to it," she says. "Data is sent every 2.5 seconds. You're always seeing near real-time weather conditions."

The Vantage Pro measures barometric pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind direction and wind speed. With optional sensors, it can also measure solar and UV radiation. In addition, the station can calculate dew point, heat index, wind chill, rain rate, evapotranspiration, and more. Using easy-to-read graphs, the console also collects and displays the average wind speed for the last ten minutes and 24 hours. With the touch of a button, you can see the high wind speed for each of the last 24 days, or even months and years.

There are more than 35 possible alarms for various weather conditions, including alarms for high and low temperature, low wind chill, and high heat index.

Under optimal conditions the weather station can transmit data to a console up to 800 ft. away. To boost reception and increase range, you can add one or more optional wireless repeaters.

Other options include a comprehensive



Wireless weather station is powered by a built-in solar panel. It transmits data to remote display console.

data logger and software package to link your weather station to your computer and website.

The wireless Vantage Pro sells for \$595.00. Other models are available. All come with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

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Transplanter tows behind garden tractor. It's equipped with backward-facing seat.

Pull-Type Transplanter Makes It Easy To Plant Big Gardens

Working on your hands and knees to plant a garden can provide its own satisfaction. But if you want a larger garden without too much extra work, you'll be interested in this new transplanting machine that pulls behind a garden tractor.

The "Weekender Transplanter" is a 2-wheeled, ground-driven rig that's designed to plant everything from tomatoes to peppers, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, eggplant, and squash, as well as flowers, herbs and perennials. It's equipped with a backward-facing seat that mounts above the axle and just ahead of the planting components. Those components include a furrow opening shoe and a pair of metal packer wheels, which are used to chain-drive a series of rotating plant holders mounted on a metal disc. A tray containing the seedlings mounts on a rack above the plant holders.

To plant, the operator places seedlings green side up into a slot and the rotating holders then release the seedlings into the furrow. The packer wheels then firm soil

around the plants. Additional plant holders may be added (or removed) to alter the spacing between plants.

"It's a simple, low maintenance system," says Hugh Gerhardt, Holland Transplanter Co., Holland, Mich. "Because the operator faces backward, he can see what the plants look like after they're in the ground and tell right away if there are any problems. It accepts plant plugs or bare roots up to 2 in. in diameter and 6 1/2 inches long. For close plant spacing, tractor ground speed may need to be as slow as 2/10 of 1 mph. Going that slow usually requires a tractor equipped with a hydrostatic or creeper gear transmission.

"A number of options are available including a water and starter fertilizer setup."

A transplanter equipped with a cushion seat sells for \$783.

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John King pulls 10 used aircraft baggage carts together at a time to haul round bales off his hay fields. "It's amazing how well the carts follow each other," he says.

Aircraft Baggage Carts Turned Into "Wagon Train" Hay Hauler

"I hook them up like a wagon train to move round bales off our hay fields and to haul lumber out of the woods," says John King, Midland, Va., who pulls 10 used aircraft baggage carts together at a time.

King bought the used baggage carts at a surplus auction for \$10 apiece. The 4-wheel steer carts were about 28 years old when King bought them in 1986. The carts are 7 ft. long and 4 ft. wide and are equipped with steerable front axles. King didn't have to make any modifications to the carts at all. Each cart has a 4-in. dia. loop on front of its tongue and is simply pinned to the cart ahead of it. He installed a similar ring hitch on the drawbar of his tractor.

"I use a front-end loader to load bales onto the carts," says King. "The round bales fit perfectly into the saddle at the bottom of each cart. It's amazing how well the carts follow



The aircraft baggage carts also work great for hauling lumber out of King's woods.

each other in the field. I can drive in a circle and make only one set of tracks. Another advantage is that the carts are equipped with foam-filled tires which never go flat."

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Low-Cost Flow Monitor For Liquid Manure Tanks

"Our new in-cab flow monitor for liquid manure tanks lets you know exactly when the tank runs out of manure so you can avoid skips and over or under application," says Terry Therikilsen, Progressive Designs, Comfrey, Minn.

The flow monitor consists of a 6-in. dia. steel tube equipped with a mechanical flow valve. A length of flexible rubber hose (supplied) connects the top of the tube with the horizontal discharge pipe along the top of the tank. A bright orange flag attaches to the valve. As long as manure flows through the impeller, the flag extends straight up. When the flow stops, the flag flips over so the tractor driver can't see it.

A model with an in-cab monitor, indicator light, and audio alarm is also available. They're activated by a microswitch that's protected by a metal shield.

"It lets you know exactly when the manure stops flowing, which is something much more expensive models can't do," says Therikilsen. "There's only one moving part and it's made from stainless steel."

Fits any liquid manure tank equipped with a 6-in. dia. discharge pipe.

The standard mechanical flag model sells for \$495 plus S&H; with stainless steel, \$549. The standard model equipped with an in-cab monitor sells for \$795 plus S&H; with stainless steel, \$849.



Flow monitor consists of a 6-in. dia. steel tube equipped with a mechanical flow valve that has a bright orange flag attached to it.

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