

How To Grow Fresh Winter Rhubarb

Did you know you can have fresh rhubarb all winter long by digging up some roots and moving them to your basement?

We read about the idea in Rural Delivery, a popular farm magazine published in Nova Scotia (get a sample copy at www.countrymagazines.com or call 902 354-5411).

The magazine recently ran a couple stories on the practice, which is designed for people in northern areas with hard winters.

Joe Connors of Scoudouc, New Brunswick, was itching to try the idea. He dug up a large root and placed it in the garage. It is necessary to freeze it hard for three weeks in order to "fool" it into thinking it has passed through a winter, and then you move it down to the basement. He planted it in garden soil in a large plastic tub and watered the rhubarb every third day with warm water. He also hung a 100 watt light bulb, with a reflector shield, above the tub. In a couple weeks, sprouts began to poke out of the soil. He expected only a handful or so of stalks but he ended up with at least 110.

The stalks were normal length but they were only about 1/3 the size of regular mature stalks. Connors notes that the leaves took a long time coming out, opening up fully only just before harvest.

The stalks were all mainly red. Joe and



Joe Connors of Scoudouc, New Brunswick, holds a pie's worth of "winter rhubarb".

his wife, Muriel, cut up the rhubarb to make sauce. They say the sauce was "especially sweet and very red".

Once spring came, they transplanted the roots back to the outdoor rhubarb patch.



Birkey used parts from Cub Cadet 1250 and 1650 tractors to build this 4-WD articulated loader tractor. It's powered by a 16 hp twin cylinder gas engine mounted on back.

4-WD Articulated "Cub Cadet" Loader Tractor

Many visitors to the recent Farm Progress Show near Lafayette, Ind., got a kick out of this Cub Cadet tractor - a special-built 4-WD articulated model equipped with a loader.

The yellow-and-white rig was built almost entirely from Cub Cadet 1250 and 1650 tractor parts by Kelly Birkey of Paxton, Ill. It's powered by a 16 hp Briggs & Stratton twin cylinder gas engine that's mounted on back and is equipped with a pair of hydrostatic drive transmissions. The seat tilts forward for access to the gas tank.

"When people first see it they think it's factory made," says Birkey. "I built it because I used to be an International Harvester implement dealer and got to know Cub Cadet tractors well. Building it was a fun challenge."

Birkey mounted the rear axle and hydrostatic transmission from a 1650 on the frame of a 1250. The rear axle and hydrostatic transmission off another 1250 mounts behind.

The rear transmission drives the front one via a telescoping shaft equipped with a pair of universal joints that allow the tractor to pivot. A cable also connects the two transmissions. The tractor has two pivot points, each consisting of a swiveling ball joint. The same hydraulic cylinder originally used to raise the deck on the 1650 is now used to pivot the tractor.

Birkey fitted the tractor with 12-in. turf tires all the way around. He also equipped the tractor with a new hydraulic-driven power steering assembly off a late-model Cub Cadet.

The tractor is fitted with a modified Johnson front-end loader designed for garden tractors. The loader lifts up to about 5 ft. high and is controlled by a hydraulic pump that's driven off the front hydrostatic transmission.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelley Birkey, 15 Allison Dr., Paxton, Ill. 60957 (ph 217 379-3909).

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Lurch's giant horns now measure 37 in. in dia. at the base and 75 1/2 in. from tip to tip.

Giant-Horned Steer Gets Bigger

Lurch, the record-setting Watusi steer with giant horns, just keeps growing and growing. We told you about Lurch a couple years ago (Vol. 23, No. 5). Lurch's giant horns now measure 37 in. in dia. at the base and 75 1/2 in. from tip to tip. The horns are much bigger than his head so it doesn't seem possible that they could get any larger, but they do.

Watusi steers are known for having big horns but Lurch is a phenomenon. Normally, the horns stop growing but Lurch's horns just keep getting bigger and bigger.

Despite his imposing appearance, Lurch's owner Janice Wolf of Gassville, Ark., says

the big steer is extremely docile. He's been broken to saddle almost since birth and gives rides to children and adults alike.

Lurch is only about 6 years old so Janice expects his horns to keep growing. She recently heard from Ripley's Believe It Or Not so one of these days he may get recognized for his world record setting size.

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