

Tool Helps Turn Pallets Into Fuel

Here's a handy new tool that makes it easy to break up wood pallets for disposal or to use as fuel.

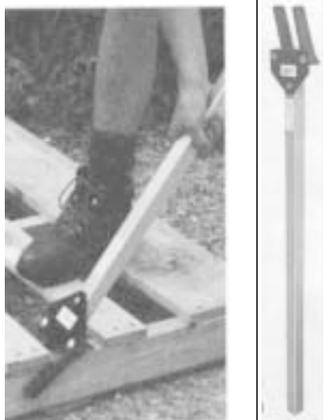
The pallet tool can also be used to pull up floorboards.

The all-steel tool is fitted with "lift bars" that make it easy to pry off the cross bars. Lets you completely break up a pallet in a minute or less with no other tools.

Tool weighs 7 lbs. and is 41 1/2 in. long. Sells for \$70.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gemplers, Inc., Box 270, Belleville, W'is. 53508 (ph 800 382-8473).

Easy-to-use skid buster tool pops out pallet or deck boards quickly. Head is designed with "lifting bars" that eliminate need for crow bars and chain saws.



Root-Cutting Plows Help Grass Renovation

Anyone attempting to renovate brushy pasture and rangeland will appreciate Albert Sturm's root cutting plows.

Sturm, a Yorktown, Texas, cow-calf producer, wanted a simpler way to aerate tight range soils to get rid of brush that robbed him of grass for his cattle.

After a couple of attempts, he came up with an undercutter type plow he calls a Brushy Grass Renovator. It can be run about 8 in. deep to lift and drop soil back into place with minimal surface disturbance. At the same time, this plow cuts the roots of deeper rooting undesirable plants.

He makes three models of the plow with up to three sweeps. Each sweep has a coulter in front of it to cut a slot for the shanks to pass through. Sturm says the plow works best in short brush, or brush that has been shredded. It'll cut through roots up to 2 in. in diameter. A 60 to 90 hp tractor is required for the two-bottom plow. A three-bottom plow needs 90 to 125 hp.

For taller brush with thicker roots, Sturm designed a heavier Regrowth Root Plow. This plow is a single sweep, capable of cutting roots up to 3.5 inches in diameter at an 8 in. depth. He makes three models of this plow from 8 to 12 1/2 ft. wide.

He cautions about overpowering the plows. "The frame is built to handle an occasional stump, if the tractor isn't over-horsepowered for the plow," he says.

Both types of plow loosen the ground



Undercutter-type plow can be run about 8 in. deep with minimal soil surface disturbance.



Sturm makes three models of the plow with up to three sweeps.

completely while leaving the ground firm enough for grass root survival during dry conditions. The Regrowth Root Plow leaves the soil surface slightly rougher than the Brushy Grass Renovator. Both have gauge wheels to limit the operating depth of the plows. Coulters on Brushy Grass Renovator plows have two springs for down pressure.

Prices range from \$2,350 for the 2-bottom Cat. II Brushy Grass Renovator to \$3,950 for the 12.5-ft. Cat. III single blade Root Regrowth Plow.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sturm Welding Works, 84 Green Acres Rd. Yorktown, Texas 78164 (ph 361 564-2186).

Hose And Cord Reels Swing Out Through Shop Wall

When Arvin De Cook needs an air hose or extension cord outside his shop, he simply opens a small door in his shop wall. No need to go inside the shop.

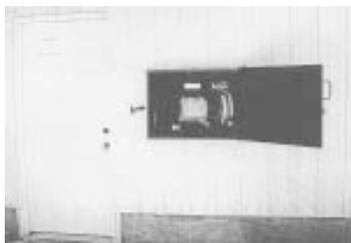
The air hose and extension cord reels swing out through the opening.

"It's handy to use and saves a lot of steps," says De Cook. "The hose and extension cord are always within easy reach, whether I'm working inside or outside the shop."

De Cook installed the system when he built his shop. He framed in a 22 1/2 by 30-in. opening in the shop building's front wall and attached a steel door to it which attaches to a bracket that automatically swings the reels outside when the door is opened and back inside when the door is closed.

A small gas shock that's bolted to the door holds the door open and also keeps it shut.

"It makes simple jobs such as pumping up a flat tire or cleaning a clogged radiator much



Air hose and extension cord reels swing out through opening in De Cook's shop wall.

faster and stress-free," says De Cook. "With this setup I need only one hose and cord for use both inside and outside the shop."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arvin De Cook, 9658 Hwy. F62 E., Sully, Iowa 50251 (ph 641 594-3438).

Home-Built Electric-Powered Pickup

Electric-powered vehicles have been in the news lately as a way to save on the cost of gas. Don Hill, Moose Jaw, Sask., wanted to try the idea himself but he couldn't justify the cost of a commercial electric vehicle. Instead, he converted his 1988 Ford Ranger F-150 pickup.

The pickup now has 20 6-volt batteries under the hood and 14 back in the bed. Hill removed the pickup's engine, radiator, exhaust system, and gas tank but left the 5-speed transmission in place. All those components were replaced by a 28 hp DC electric motor, which cost \$2,300, and a \$1,100 aluminum adapter plate, which couples the motor to the transmission. A \$2,000 controller links the motor to all the batteries, which rest inside home-built insulated boxes.

Gauges installed in the cab tell Hill how many amps are being drawn by the motor and how many volts are still left in the batteries. A \$1,500 charger is used to charge the batteries.

I call it my 'zero emission vehicle'. It's virtually maintenance-free and eliminates the need for mufflers, fuel and oil filters, fan belts, antifreeze, oil changes, spark plugs, and tune-ups," says Hill, who made the conversion two years ago. "I use it all the time, mainly to run around with and to get parts in town for my tractor or combine. Everyone around here is interested in it.

"I have a meter hooked up to the charger in my garage, so I know exactly how much power I'm using and what the cost is. I figure it costs only about one third as much to operate my electric-powered pickup as it costs to operate my mini van, and that includes the cost of replacing the batteries.

The pickup now weighs 1,200 lbs. more than when I bought it, mainly because of the batteries. I've driven it up to 60 miles on one



Don Hill converted his 1988 Ford Ranger F-150 pickup into a "zero emission", electric-powered vehicle.



Pickup now has 20 6-volt batteries under the hood and 14 back in the bed.



Hill removed the pickup's engine and replaced it with a 28 hp DC electric motor. A controller links the motor to all the batteries.

charge. The batteries will charge on either 220 or 110 volts. They cost about \$100 apiece. My total cost for all the components was about \$12,000 (Canadian)."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Hill, Box 104 -325 4th Ave. S.W., Moose Jaw, Sask. S6H 5V2 (ph 306 693-2693).

"No Chemical" Weeders For Specialty Crops

If you grow vegetables, fruits or other specialty crops, you'll like these "mechanical" finger-type cultivators from the Budding Weeder Co., Dutton, Mich.

The In-Row Weeder removes weeds around plants using rubber fingers mounted on a cone. These fingers stir soil and remove small weeds, but leave established plants intact.

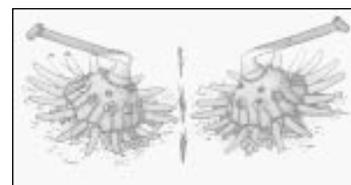
Says Phil Sarber, owner of the Budding Weeder Co., "Our customers use this weeder to weed around shrubs, bushes and small trees in nursery operations. You can operate it at speeds of 3 to 5 mph without damaging trees."

The In-Row Weeder is a 7 in. cone-shaped wheel with 3 1/2-in. long rubber fingers for weeding. Steel ground driven spikes keep the wheel turning. The weeding fingers are spring-mounted. The cone wheel itself is spring-mounted on a flexing arm that allows the weeder to move aside if it should hit an obstacle.

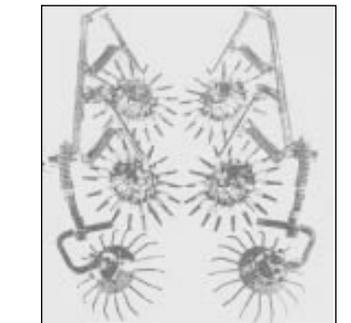
Budding also makes the "K" Basket Weeder, which removes weeds between rows. Even though this rotary weeder is not powered, its design allows it to work in crusted soil and even in thick weeds.

Sarber says that while the basic design for the weeders doesn't change, each weeder is put together specifically to meet the buyer's needs. A three-row K Weeder on a 48-in. frame, for example, sells for about \$1,200, assuming no special mountings or hitches are needed. Allow 90 days from time of order until delivery.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Phil



The In-Row Weeder is a 7-in. cone-shaped wheel with 3 1/2-in. long rubber fingers for weeding.



Steel ground-driven spikes keep the wheel turning.



K-Basket Weeder removes weeds between rows.

Sarber, Budding Weeder Co., 7015 Hammond Ave., Dutton, Mich. 49316 (ph 616 698-8613).