



Slide-out unloader pulls entire load out of Johnson's Agri-Fab blower vac.

## “Slide-Out” Unloader Improves Blower Vac

Larry Johnson, Ontario, N.Y., wasn't happy with the unloading system on his Agri-Fab blower vac. He pulls the 2-wheeled unit behind his garden tractor.

“The cart is designed to tip back and dump the load out but it doesn't dump very well. The problem is, leaves get packed in so tight they won't slide out. I often had to use a fork to remove much of the load. So I designed a slide-out unloader that pulls the entire load out of the cart.”

The unloader consists of a piece of plywood that fits against the front side of the cart. The board connects to a pair of 2 by 4's that extend the length of the cart's floor. A

piece of pipe runs between the 2 by 4's and serves as a handle to pull the unloader out of the cart. The plywood board is reinforced by a pair of 10-in. wide boards set at an angle on each side.

To unload, Johnson simply pulls on the handle until most of the load is out of the cart, then hydraulically raises the cart to dump the rest out onto the ground. He also added a big inspection hole on front of the cart so he can see from the tractor when it's full.

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Gas-powered shredder not only picks leaves up, it also shreds them on-the-go. Unit blows leaf bits through a dust collector and then into cargo box.

## On-The-Go Leaf Shredder

Tired of raking leaves and carrying them away? David Smith's leaf shredder not only picks them up, it also shreds them on-the-go.

“I can blow them into the shredder with the mower deck on, drop down the chute and rake them in. We can also use the flexible hose to suck them in,” explains Smith.

The gas-powered shredder blows the leaf bits through a dust collector where they settle into the cargo box. When the box is full, Smith simply drives his mower/shredder combo to a field owned by a neighboring farmer who lets him drop the leaves in a field.

“I used 2-in. angle iron to build the trailer to hold the chipper shredder and the 3 by 5 by 4-ft. plywood cargo box,” says Smith. “The frame is welded to a rigid axle made from a 1-in. round steel rod. The wheels are trailer wheels with built-in bearings.”

Smith welded an adapter on the grass discharge of his mower deck that fits a 7-in. flexible metal hose. The hose runs to the leaf hopper of the shredder. It can be detached from the mower and used like a vacuum hose to suck leaves into the shredder.

At the discharge end of the shredder, Smith attached a blower pipe off an old hammermill. The dust collector off the hammermill is attached to the top of the leaf collection box. Shredded leaves and leaf dust fall through the dust collector and into the storage box.

“Not counting the chipper shredder, I may have \$50 in it, and it works great,” says Smith.

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Skid steer loader-mounted “leaf bucket” is made from light gauge sheet metal. Matthews simply rakes or scoops leaves into bucket.

## Giant “Leaf Bucket” Makes Fall Cleanup Easy

“I use it to haul leaves. It works fast and saves a lot of work,” says Jim Matthews, King, N.C., about his skid steer loader-mounted “leaf bucket.”

The quick-tach bucket is made from light gauge sheet metal and measures 8 ft. wide, 4 ft. high, and 5 ft. deep. He simply rakes or scoops leaves into the bucket, then dumps them out somewhere out of the way. Matthews primed and painted the metal so it won't rust.

Matthews says he came up with the idea because he has a big lawn with a lot of trees. “When the wind blows, a lot of leaves end up piled thick around our house, where there's

no room to maneuver a pull-type leaf vacuum machine,” he says. “I tried raking the leaves onto a tarp and then grabbing the corners and dragging it to a dump site, but it was back breaking work.”

“This bucket is big enough so I can get several pickup loads of leaves in it. There's no need for a cover on it because it's so big. Sometimes I use a backpack blower to windrow the leaves into big piles before I rake them into the bucket,” he notes.

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Jay Main rakes leaves with a 16-ft. wide section of aluminum ladder. It's covered with chicken wire and hooked on behind his 3-pt. mounted landscape rake.

## 16-Ft. Leaf Rake Made From Ladder

“It'll move a tremendous amount of leaves at a time,” says Jay Main, Roanoke, Va., who rakes leaves with a 16-ft. wide section of an aluminum extension ladder that's covered with chicken wire and hooked on behind his 3-pt. mounted landscape rake.

The ladder - which is actually a half section off a 32-ft. extension ladder - U-bolts onto the back side of the rake, and the chicken wire is tied to it with wire.

Main uses the rake in his commercial landscaping business.

“A lot of my customers have a huge amount of leaves. I was already using the landscape rake to move leaves and thought that if it was

just a little wider, I could move them a lot faster. It used to take two or three workers several days to move all the leaves onto a pile and load them into a truck. But with my 16-ft. wide rake I can go into an area and load the same amount of leaves in one day.

It has to be a large property because it's too big to use in a small yard. It takes only about 5 minutes to remove the ladder from the rake.

“I save lot of time with it because I can put two guys to work doing something else while I move leaves,” notes Main.

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Ladder bolts onto rake tines. Chicken wire is tied to it with wire.