

Easy Way To Clean Riding Mower Deck

A reader recently wrote in about how hard it was to clean his 54-in. riding lawn mower deck. That prompted another reader, Bernard Larson, Mabel, Minn., to tell us about the easy deck cleaning system he came up with.

He simply buries a length of garden hose under the lawn and runs it over to a spike-type sprinkler head that's buried in the ground.

"To clean the mower deck, I turn the water on and drive the mower over the sprinkler," says Larson. "I engage the mower blades and the water does all the work."

"This underground cleaning system could work for any size riding mower as well as large walk-behinds. It is inexpensive and, because the blades move so quickly, they dry the mower so there's no chance of rust forming."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bernard Larson, Route 1, Box 219, Mabel, Minn. 55954 (ph 507 493-5519).

"All I do is turn the water on, drive the mower over the sprinkler, and engage the mower blades. The water does all the work," says Larson.



To clean the deck on his riding mower, Bernard Larson buries a length of garden hose under the lawn and runs it over to a spike-type sprinkler head that's buried in the ground.



Trevor Shute converted an old 1-row, pto-driven hay chopper into this heavy duty brush chipper. Machine is powered by a 2.8-liter gas engine and 5-speed transmission.

Hay Chopper Brush Chipper

Trevor Shute couldn't justify the cost of a commercial brush chipper. So he built his own out of an old 1-row, pull-type hay chopper.

"It lets me chop brush up to 4 inches in diameter with no problems. I got the idea from a previous FARM SHOW story on someone who converted an old Case corn chopper into a chipper," says Shute, of Guelph, Ontario.

He bought the pto-driven hay chopper from a local scrap dealer. It was a 1942 Case model equipped with a flywheel-type cutterhead with two 4-in. wide by 18-in. long blades. He cut away all components except the cutterhead and feed rollers, and added two more blades.

He fitted the chopper frame with the front axle out of an old Ford pickup, which he widened. The new axle lowered the machine about 6 in. He used a combination of different sized sprockets and chains to slow down the drive train to reduce the speed of the feeder rollers. He also installed a 2.8-liter gas engine and 5-speed transmission, as well as the front wheel drive system from a 1984 Chevrolet Cavalier car. The engine mounts on a subframe made from 4-in. channel iron. The drive shaft that originally drove the car's front axle hooks up to the chopper's original pto shaft.

To make room for the front wheel drive system, he removed a 10-ft. long portion of the chopper's driveshaft and moved the shorter telescoping shaft back. Then he cut off part of the telescoping shaft and welded on a pto extender equipped with a female

spline on one end and a male spline on the other end. The extender allows the front wheel drive system to match up with the chopper's pto shaft.

An 8-gal. fuel tank mounts up front, along with a homemade panel equipped with gauges that are used to monitor the engine. A radiator from a junked pickup and a 12-volt electric fan are used to cool the engine and transmission.

The last step was to paint the machine Case orange and black.

"It works good and was a fun project to do," says Shute. "I use it around my farm to chip branches and to do gardening and landscape work. When I put the transmission in forward gear, the driveshaft rotates counter-clockwise just like a regular pto shaft. I run the engine in second gear at half throttle, and it has power to spare."

"I paid \$100 for the chopper. The engine was given to me by a friend, and I had to replace the starter, alternator and water pump. The fuel tank came out of a scrapyard. I had the muffler custom made at a muffler shop for \$70. My total cost was about \$500."

Shute cut off part of the blower chute on back to improve the machine's appearance. "Generally, I use the machine to blow chips into bushes. But if I'm using it to load chips into a trailer, I add an extension spout that I made out of 10-in. dia. ductwork. An old feed bag tied onto the extension keeps chips from flying out too far."

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Design improves cutterbar performance by increasing crop feeding capabilities and lowering the horsepower required.

Curved Sickle Sections Boost Cutting Ability

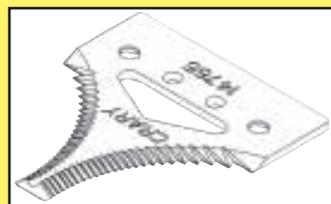
A revolutionary new sickle section design provides up to 77 percent more feeding than conventional sickles, says the manufacturer, Crary Company, which plans to introduce the new sickle sections in June.

The Crary "KingKut" sickles dramatically improve cutterbar performance by increasing crop feeding capabilities and lowering the horsepower required. Instead of a straight triangle shape, the sides of the KingKut sickles curve inward.

"The shape and spacing give you a larger cutting surface," says Jay Wik, vice president of sales and marketing. "This allows you to gather in more material, and depending on the crop conditions, increase your ground speed."

Wik says the base (the deepest part of the section) is like the pivot point of a scissors, in that it provides closer metal to metal contact, producing a better quality cut.

"Also, because of the shape, these sections are lighter than others on the market; the



Instead of a straight triangle shape, the sides of the KingKut sickles curve inward.

whole sickle can weigh up to 26 percent less, and this makes your horsepower demand lower," he says.

The KingKut sections are designed to fit the Crary GOLD'n CUT cutterbar.

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"It works as well as anything on the market," says Roger Oyen about the hydraulic-powered silage "defacer" he made out of an old rotary hoe.

Low-Cost Silage "Defacer" Built From Rotary Hoe

Bucket-mounted rotary cutters for bunker silos sell for up to \$5,000. Roger Oyen, Lancaster, Wis., made his own hydraulic-powered silage "defacer" out of an old rotary hoe. He uses it on his Case 1840 skid steer loader.

"I spent only about \$300 to build it. It works just as good as anything on the market," he says.

He started with a 12-ft. wide Deere rotary hoe. He cut it down to 5 ft. 6 in. - the width of his skid loader bucket - and mounted the teeth on a steel shaft attached to a pair of brackets that bolt to the top of the bucket. The shaft is chain-driven by an orbit motor. The rows of teeth are spaced 3 in. apart. The hoe wheels themselves measure about 14 in. in diameter and are mounted just high enough to clear the top of the bucket.

"It was easy to put together and works great," says Oyen, who built the silage defacer last fall. "I use it every day to loosen haylage in my two 25 by 80-ft. bunker silos. I tip the bucket down to loosen the silage, then rotate it back up to scoop up the silage



Bucket is tipped down to loosen the silage, then rotated back up to scoop up silage so it can be loaded into his TMR mixer wagon.

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"In the past I just used the bucket but it would break off big pieces of silage, which would then become exposed to oxygen and spoil. My defacer keeps the bunker face nice and straight. It doesn't loosen any more feed than what I need."

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