



Two-pronged hoe has tapered notch that catches taproots rather than cutting them off.

Hoe Pulls Weeds By The Roots

Jerry Hoover couldn't get rid of stubborn noxious weeds using a regular hoe on his ranch near Fallon, Nevada. So, he went to his shop and after making 20 prototypes, created what he calls the Sticker Stalker.

It's a two-pronged hoe that you slide on the ground until the tapered notch in the center catches a taproot. With a tug, it yanks out

the entire root system unlike a conventional hoe that simply cuts it off. By pulling out the root system from the bottom, the seeds are left on the weed; not on the ground for new sprouts. The hoe also has sharpened edges that remove new weed growth.

"I've never seen anything like it. It's amazing the way it pulls out goatheads, sandburs, cockleburrs, and other tough weeds. They don't come back if you get the roots," says Hoover.

Sells for \$20 plus S&H.
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Merlyn Rieffer scored an old bathtub with an angle grinder to cut it in two, then bolted scrap iron to the sides to mount it on a 3-pt. hitch.

Slick Scoop Made From Old Bathtub

If you've got an old bathtub laying around on a scrap pile, you could turn it into a scoop on the back of your 3-pt. hitch. That's what Merlyn Rieffer, DeSoto, Mo., did with an old cast iron bathtub his brother-in-law gave him.

He scored it with an angle grinder and chiseled along the groove to break evenly. To make both long sides look even, he took off the lip on the tub that would normally face away from the wall. The frame is made from scrap metal.

"When digging dirt, the pressure is exerted along the back top side of the tub which is thicker and also along the side rails that are bolted through the tub at three places," he says. "Dirt comes out easily because the tub is so slick."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Merlyn



"Dirt comes out easily because the tub is so slick," Rieffer says.

L. Rieffer, 1864 Mothershead Ln., DeSoto, Mo. 63020 (ph 636 586-2901).

He Built His Own 570-Ft. Long Roller Coaster

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

This 570-ft. long roller coaster on the Marshall Litchfield farm, Macomb, Ill., was a big surprise to some people, including the man who built it, Marshall Litchfield.

However, now that it's there, his grandchildren and other kids from the neighborhood think it's just great.

Building a backyard roller coaster had not even entered Litchfield's mind when he went to an auction where they were selling off equipment from a closed factory.

"When they started to auction off some metal conveyor rollers, I decided I might find a place for 20 ft. of it, so I bid \$20 per foot and got it."

The next section sold for less. Then there was almost no bidding on the rest of it. Litchfield ended up with most of it at 17 cents per foot. Then he got the inspiration to use it to build a roller coaster.

For many people, that might sound like a tall order. But Litchfield is an established innovator with quite a few inventions to his credit.

He selected ground with just enough natural slope to let the proposed roller coaster car run. At the end of the 570-ft. run there's a raised braking slope which brings the car to a gentle stop.

Children and adults ride in a car attached to the track with rollers. He designed the car to run on salvaged corn planter wheels. There's a guide in front and back which keeps the wheels on the track. The conveyor rollers actually aren't used to roll the car.

A golf cart and rope is used to return the car to its launching pad at the top of the slope. Litchfield might add a motorized return next year.

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Marshall Litchfield's grandchildren love his "made it myself" roller coaster. He made the track out of metal rollers he picked up cheap at an auction.



Litchfield uses a golf cart to return the car to its launching pad.