

## New Way To "Blast" Underground Pests

Safety was the number one concern when Bus Hudson and his partners started looking for a better way to control gophers, badgers and ground squirrels. Traps and poisons just weren't effective, and Hudson was concerned about the safety of "underground blasters" that explode gas-filled tunnels. Their solution was to come up with what they call the General Varmint Control Xtreme (GVC-XTR).

"It's the only underground blaster with a wireless remote control," says Hudson. "We don't have to stand over the tunnels to blow them. We can be up to 100 ft. away when we set them off."

The GVC-XTR also has a lower cost per charge than many competitive units, thanks to its use of liquid oxygen instead of compressed oxygen. The ratio of propane to liquid oxygen knocks the price of each shot down to 7 to 10¢ for blowing a 30 to 40-ft. tunnel.

"You can get a 500-lb. tank of liquid oxygen for about \$200, and it will last for 2 to 3 weeks of steady use," says Hudson. "A tank of propane costs about \$10 and lasts for 3 to 4 days. We use a small amount of propane and a lot of oxygen."

The GVC-XTR is easy to operate, too. Hudson suggests going into the field early in the spring when fresh holes are first appearing. Using a spade or the GVC attack shovel, a hole is made in an existing tunnel mound.

The patented warhead on the end of the feeder hose is inserted, and in a minute, 30 to 40 ft. of tunnel are filled with explosive gas. Then you step back and set it off. Hudson suggests a three-day attack. Hit all fresh digs the first day. Wait a couple of days and hit the site again. Wait a couple days more and repeat.

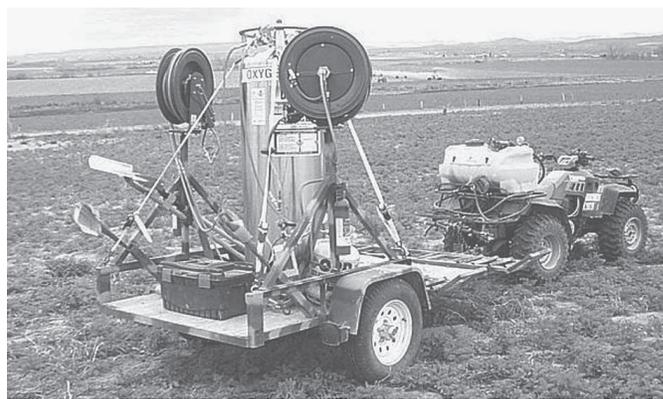
"We did a field for one prospective customer and blew 100 holes the first day," recalls Hudson. "We found only 8 holes the second day and two on the third pass."

Hudson notes that it is a constant battle to keep the varmints out of fields, but it definitely is worth it. One 6,000-acre hay producer reported being able to charge \$25 to \$40 more per ton due to increased quality since controlling gophers in the field with the GVC-XTR. The reduced wear and tear on equipment also adds up.

"One breeding pair of gophers will produce 88 offspring in a single year," says Hudson. "People often ask if the GVC-XTR hurts a field when a tunnel is blown. I tell them gophers left alone will cause much more damage."

The GVC isn't cheap at \$3,500 with a 50-ft. hose reel. However, sales have been good. Hudson says large operators buy one for themselves, while smaller operators often buy one to share. The basic unit can be upgraded with 150-ft. hose reels and other equipment.

"We have sold to trappers, young people and others who see the opportunity to set up



"It's the only underground blaster with a wireless remote control," says Bus Hudson about his General Varmint Control Xtreme.

a business," says Hudson. Trailers small enough to be pulled by an ATV are available. The \$1,095 Sergeant model can carry a propane tank and either an oxygen gas cylinder or a 500-lb. liquid oxygen tank, multiple hose reel towers as well as other components. The \$1,695 Major is large enough to also cross load and carry the ATV between fields or farms. Both units are equipped with a full set of safety equipment.

He points out that in heavy infestations, it is easily possible to kill 20 varmints per hour or 160 in an 8-hour day. At a fee of even \$1/varmint, it would only take 22 days to pay for the GVC-XTR. Higher fees, of course,

can speed the payback.

He also points out that the GVC-XTR is a more humane and environmentally preferred way to control varmints. "Death is instant, and you don't have to worry about cats and dogs eating poisoned animals," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farm and Ranch Manufacturing, LLC, 13103 Highway 55 North, Boise, Idaho 83714 (ph 208 573-6820 (Bus Hudson); 208 573-1888 (Drex Shira); 208 573-8439 (Sam Johnson); generalvarmintcontrol@msn.com; www.generalvarmintcontrol.com).

## Burlap Bag Bat Homes

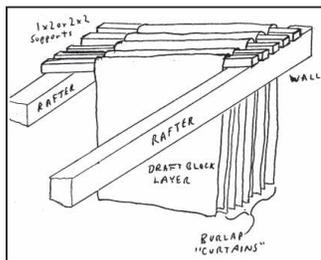
Michael Spadoni found a new way to attract insect-eating bats by accident.

"I hung some burlap sacks over the rafters in my small barn. When I pulled a bag off sometime later, I found a couple bats in there between the layers," says the Rail Road Flat, Calif. man.

He set about purposely making a bat home by laying wood strips across the rafters and draping cut-open burlap bags or carpet scraps over them to create a series of curtains.

"The bats just need material they can cling to and crawl on. Six to 12 layers works well," he explains. "Location is important. You want these curtains to be attached to the rafters inside the building so they're well protected from the rain. They should also be close to, or against a south or southwest wall, because that's where the roof will be most warmed by the sun. Also, put them in buildings where the rafters are high up so you won't disturb the bats if you're working inside."

Spadoni says he learned from experience that using burlap bags alone doesn't offer the



Bat home is made by laying wood strips across rafters and draping cut-open burlap bags over them.

bats enough insulation. They're kind of porous and drafty, he says, so he hangs a couple pieces of carpet or heavy fabric at each end of the line of burlap bags.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael Spadoni, Box 430, Rail Road Flat, Calif. 95248 (Michaeljack@volcano.net).

## Invention Lets You Stand And Plant

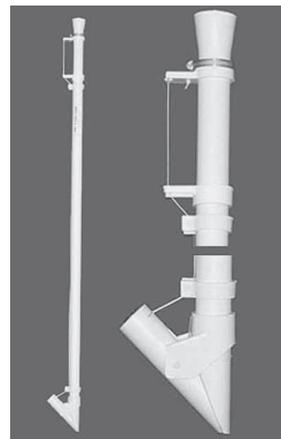
"Just poke, squeeze and pull," says Mary Olliver about the "Stand 'n Plant" garden tool her husband invented so he doesn't have to bend over when planting his three acres of pumpkins.

It's made from 1-in. dia. PVC with a tip at the end that drops seed 1 in. deep and covers it. A durable strap on the handle opens and closes the tip.

Although they've been using the Stand n Plant since 1986, they didn't have time to sell them. "We were too busy farming," she says. Now that they're getting older and cutting back on farming, they have the time to try to put it on the market.

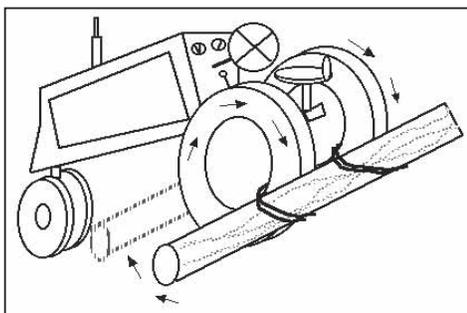
Olliver says it'll plant seeds, bulbs, and seedlings.

Sells for \$39.99 plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stand 'n Plant, 95 Rose Road, Saltsburg, Penn. 15681 (ph 724 349-5167 or 724 639-3965; info@standnplant.com; www.standnplant.com).



Garden tool is made from 1-in. dia. PVC pipe, with a tip at the end that drops seed 1 in. deep and covers it.

To "unstuck" a tractor, chain a log tightly to both rear wheels, and then slowly back up.



## Great Way To "Unstuck" A Tractor

Here's a way to get a tractor unstuck when you don't have anything else around to pull it out with.

Just chain a log tightly to both of the rear wheels, threading the chain through the wheel rims. Then slowly back up until the tires go over the log and the log is in front of the wheels. Then unchain the log and repeat as

necessary until you're back on solid ground. This idea works every time. But a warning. Do not go forward while log is attached. The tractor would most likely flip over backward.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Henry Beutler, 135 N Eliason Ave., Brigham City, Utah 84302.

## Feed Bin Turned Into Bird House

Ron Ziegler, Los Alamos, Calif., made a birdhouse for his wife's 10 doves and cockatiels out of an old feed bin turned upside down.

To add "windows" to the tank, he cut the sides out of the bin using a plasma torch and covered them with wire.

In the winter, he covers the sides of the tank with plastic sheeting to break the wind.

Ziegler made a pointed roof for the aviary using some old corrugated roofing. He also constructed a side entrance that has two doors to keep the birds from escaping. "I haven't lost a bird yet," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Flying Z Ranch, Ron Ziegler, P.O. Box 348, 10090 Alisos Canyon Rd., Los Alamos, Calif. 93440 (ph 805 334-6400; fax 805 334-1799; 1flyingz@prodigy.net).



Ron Ziegler made this bird house out of an old feed bin. Side entrance has two doors to keep birds from escaping.