

Turn Your Weed Trimmer Into A Submersible Pump

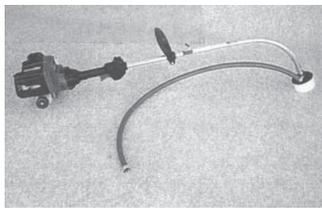
You can turn any commercial handheld weed trimmer into a low-cost, portable submersible pump with this new attachment.

No tools or adapters are needed to install the Tornado Water Pump. It quick snaps onto the string trimmer coupler and comes with a standard garden hose connection at the pump housing. You hook the other end of the coupler hose up to any garden hose and start pumping.

"It works great for pumping water out of flooded basements, boats, low-lying areas, and so forth," says distributor Sandy Ochoa. "It's less expensive and more user friendly than any other submersible pump on the market. It'll pump water at least 12 ft. straight up out of a flooded basement, and it'll pump water out through a 100-ft. garden hose with no problem. You can pump 15 to 25 gallons per minute, depending on how far you have to move the water."

Ochoa says the Tornado was originally thought up by J.D. Cameron. He thought there was a need for something like this when he was repairing water lines at a golf course. Cameron brought the idea to Ochoa, who developed the invention.

"Traditionally, submersible pumps for removing or transferring liquids such as water are self-contained units with a motor that has to be water-proofed," says Ochoa. "We eliminated that cost by using the weed trimmer motor."



Tornado Water Pump quick-snaps onto string trimmer coupler. Comes with a standard garden hose connection at the pump housing.



Sells for \$69.99 plus S&H.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ochoa Roadrunner, PDTS Inc., 505 24th St., Bldg. 4, Alamogordo, N. Mexico 88310 (ph 505 439-1518; fax 505 439-1541; tornado_tf5@hotmail.com).



Hubert Smith used sections of a damaged 3,000-bu. bin to make this car port. It measures 12 ft. wide by 22 ft. long and mounts on steel runners.

Old Bin Converted To Low-Cost Car Port

If you have an old grain bin you're not using any more, you'll be interested in this idea from Hubert Smith, Altamont, Ill. He converted part of a 3,000-bu. bin that had blown over into a roof for a car port.

The car shelter measures 12 ft. wide by 22 ft. long and mounts on steel runners, allowing Smith to easily tow it to another location if he wants.

"The bin had blown over in a storm, and part of it was kinked up so bad that I couldn't use it any more to hold grain," says Smith. "I unbolted the wall panels and used some of the better panels to make the car shelter's roof. I figure you could build at least three shelters from a bin of this size."

He used 2-in. sq. steel tubing to build the shelter's frame. A wooden 2 by 12 board, laid on its edge, runs down the top part of the frame to support the center of the roof. A pair of 2 by 4's fasten to both sides of the frame to support the roof's edges. The roof is

screwed to the boards.

Lengths of 4-in. oilfield pipe were welded onto three sides of the frame to form skids. They help hold the car shelter down and also keep the structure from twisting. Angled metal braces support the front end of the shelter. The shelter's four corners are anchored by long ground screws.

"I keep my Ford Ranger small 1/2-ton pickup in it," says Smith. "The car port keeps rain and hail off the pickup, and during hot weather the shade keeps it from getting so hot. Also, during winter I don't have to worry about scraping frost off the windshield."

"I built the car shelter in my shop and then used a tractor to pull it into place about 50 ft. from my house. I already had the lumber and spent about \$50 for the square tubing and screws."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hubert Smith, 5730 N. Hwy. 40 E., Altamont, Ill. 62411 (ph 618 483-6588).



StubbleStar row opener uses star-shaped discs. It's able to operate in thick residue that can be left in place to suppress weeds.

StubbleStar Shines In Narrow Rows

StubbleStar is an innovative row opener from Australia that promises to cut through the barriers to successful solid seeded no-till crops. Even better, the star-shaped disks do so while reducing fuel use, risk of erosion, and weed seed germination.

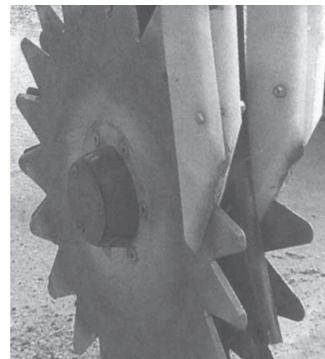
"Trials conducted in western Australia in 2005 indicate that the StubbleStar gets significantly more seedlings out of the ground than conventional disks and just as many as hoe openers without the hassles of straw blockage," says David Gregor, senior research engineer, CRC for Australian Weed Management.

Gregor is a member of a team of researchers who developed the StubbleStar. The goal of the project was to come up with a device that would reduce the need for herbicides in no-till farming, even under heavy residue/mulch conditions. What they came up with was a device that also improves seed and fertilizer placement.

Getting seed and fertilizer placed in no-till is a tough enough proposition with wide rows. Narrow rows or solid seeding make it even harder. Narrow row shovels or hoes plug up in heavy crop residue. All too often, instead of cutting straw, disks force it down into the furrow, or create a V-shaped furrow prone to smearing and compaction.

"The 20-point star-shaped blades of the StubbleStar pull the residue apart as they open the furrow, cut some of the residue and pull the remaining uncut straw back out of the furrow as the star points exit," explains Gregor. "The inner teeth from the left star mate with the inner teeth of the right star as they enter the soil. By the time the offset disks leave the soil, they are operating at an angle of almost 16° to each other. This is enough to lift and fracture the furrow wall in a process similar to an 'inverted-T' hoe-type opener."

Nitrogen or mixed fertilizer is deposited at the bottom of the furrow. A specially designed blade mounted between the starred



The 20-point star-shaped blades pull residue apart as they open the furrow.

disks fills the serrations, creating a level and uniform seed bed of loose soil and places seed on it. Trailing press wheels improve seed covering and improve seed-to-soil contact.

Drawbar testing has shown the StubbleStar requires less horsepower (which translates into reduced fuel costs) than inverted-T narrow row hoe openers. Other advantages include being able to operate in the thick residue/mulch that suppresses weed emergence. The reduced tillage also reduces weed seed germination. Narrow row configurations also reduce weed competition by shading out what weeds do germinate.

Efforts are currently underway to partner with machinery manufacturers in North America to produce the StubbleStar units. Gregor is confident they have a fit on precision corn planters as combined row cleaning/fertilizer applicator attachments.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Gregor, CRC for Australian Weed Management, NSW Department of Primary Industries, WWAI, PMB, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales 2650, Australia (ph 011 61 2 6938 1907; fax 011 61 2 6938 1861; david.gregor@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Cahaba Snake Trap

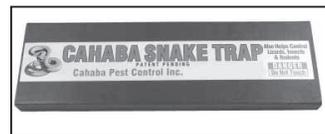
There's a new trap on the market that allows you to capture snakes and, if desired, release them unharmed into more appropriate surroundings.

The Cahaba Snake Trap is available from Wildlife Control Supplies of East Granby, Conn., and comes in two sizes, both made from a commercial grade, weather-resistant plastic.

The re-useable trap has a disposable glue pad insert that can easily be removed, once the snake is captured.

The Cahaba Snake Trap comes in a 32 by 10 by 2 1/2-in. size, as well as a 16 by 5 1/4 by 2 1/2-in. version. Both come complete with three suitably sized glue pad inserts. The larger model can handle the largest of nuisance snakes.

The traps are priced at \$49.95 and \$25.95 (plus S&H), respectively.



Reusable trap has a disposable glue pad insert that can easily be removed, once the snake is captured.

"These traps will last for years and years - there's no other trap like it on the market," says Alan Huot, owner of Wildlife Control Supplies.

The company also sells snake lure and snake repellent, among many other products.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wildlife Control Supplies, Box 538, East Granby, Conn. 06026 (ph 877 684-7262 (toll free); 860 844-0101 (customer service); fax: 860 413-9831; sales @ wildlifecontrolsupplies.com; www.wildlifecontrolsupplies.com).