

## “Stand And Plant” Garden Tool

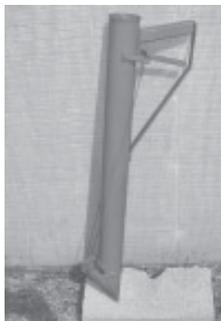
“Our new handheld planter will plant your tomatoes, peppers, and other small plants with ease while standing up,” says Fran Olliver about the “Stand ‘n Plant” garden tool he invented so he doesn’t have to bend over when planting.

It’s made from a 2 3/4-in. dia. metal tube. To operate you simply drop the plant down the tube, poke it into the ground, squeeze the opening lever, and pull the tube from the ground and your plant is planted. “One person can easily plant hundreds of plants per hour while standing up,” says Olliver. “It lets you plant into prepared seedbeds, either through plastic or on bare ground.”

A metal cable connected to a lever opens and closes the tip. The planter will also plant potatoes and large bulbs.

Sells for \$79.99 plus \$16 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fran Olliver, Stand ‘n Plant, 95 Rose Road, Saltsburg, Penn. 15681 (ph 724 639-3965 or 724 349-5167; franalope@yahoo.com; www.standnplant.com).



Handheld planter is made from a 2 3/4-in. dia. metal tube. To use, drop the plant down tube and poke into the ground, then squeeze the opening lever and pull tube from the ground.



## DC Light Bulbs Run Off Batteries

Here’s an easy way to get light when you’re “off the grid”. Adding light to a cabin or boat is as easy as hooking a lamp to a battery.

“A lot of our clients are ‘plain people’ (Amish),” explains Steve Blank, Starlux Illumination. “A number of them are going from gas-powered lamps to batteries powered by solar or diesel chargers. The rising cost of fuel is a factor.”

Other customers are people with hunting cabins who put in an engine-driven battery charger or solar power system. “We even have fishermen who put them in watertight fixtures and then put them in the water to attract fish,” says Blank.

The fluorescent bulbs are available at 5, 13, 23 and 30-watt output. Fluorescent bulbs put out about four times the light of incandescents so a 23-watt bulb is actually close to a 100-watt incandescent in light output. There are three different color temperatures rated in K Kelvin (K) degrees. The 3500K bulbs put out a yellowish color that is more similar to an incandescent light. For a flat white light, Blank suggests the 4,000K bulbs and the 6,500K bulbs for a brilliant, bluer light for more contrast. Bulbs are priced from \$7.95 for lower wattages to \$12.95 for the higher power bulbs.

While fluorescent bulbs are noted for their long life, DC bulb life can be reduced if batteries run down. “If the battery power is too low, the balance has to work too hard, and the mercury doesn’t heat up like it should,” explains Blank. “It’s essential to have a meter hooked up to the battery. We sell a little box with three LED lights that give an instant reading of the battery charge.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Starlux Illumination, 952 Strasburg Rd., Kinzers, Penn. 17535 (www.solareasy.com).



The 12-volt fluorescent bulbs can be hooked up to batteries.

## “Hot Rods” Make Cold Weather Fishing Fun

With Hot Rods rod warmers, fishermen can fish longer on cold days, says inventor Bill Trzeciak. The police officer from LaGrange, Ill., came up with the idea after a fellow officer complained about how cold his hands were on a Canadian fishing trip. Trzeciak decided to use the disposable air-activated heat packs he keeps in his pockets at Chicago Bears football games.

He came up with a sleeve design to secure the heat packs in place around the rod handle.

The sleeve is washable cotton and reversible-blaze orange on one side, camouflage on the other. Just shake and open the heat packs and slip them inside the sleeve, Trzeciak explains, and enjoy six or more hours of fishing with warm hands. “I catch a lot of fish, and it’s always a pain to take gloves off every time you catch one on cold days while walleye and crappie fishing,” he says. “The people who have them, love them. They say they won’t go fishing in cold weather without them.” Customers include professional fishermen and fishing guides who provide them to clients for added comfort.

Trzeciak sells two Hot Rods sleeves and two heat packs for \$19.95, plus shipping. He’s looking for dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Trzeciak, P.O. Box 602, LaGrange, Ill. 60525 (sales@heatgrip.com; www.heatgrip.com).



Sleeve design secures heat pack to fishing rod handle.

## How To Disinfect A Kitchen Sponge

Kitchen sponges and washclothes can contain as much as 10,000 bacteria per inch - including dangerous pathogens like E.coli and salmonella. Washing them doesn’t disinfect them. But nuking them in a microwave for just 2 min. can kill 99% of bacteria, according to a study in the Journal of Environmental Health. A research team at the University of Florida did the research. For the idea to work, you must first soak the sponge in water, otherwise it might burst into flames.

## Grommets Help Get Into Boots

Grommets installed in the tops of boots have been a big help to C.F. Marley, now that he’s older and doesn’t bend so well.

“I use the grommets in two ways,” says Marley. “When I’m home and can keep the boots within easy reach, I use a couple of assists that were cut from plastic clothes hangers. When I’m away from home I get a lot of help with shoe laces that I leave in place. It takes a little more bending this way, but it’s still a lot of help.”

The grommets were put into a new pair of boots by a local awning service. Awning people use grommets all the time, and they have them in several sizes, says Marley.

If you’re going to use coat hanger helpers, be sure to use grommets that are large enough, he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2588).



Laces tie into grommets to help pull on boots.

## Dual Purpose Shelter, Playhouse

Bus shelters are a common sight in cold country where kids have to wait out in the wind and snow for their schoolbus. But here’s a little twist on the idea.

Rex Gogerty made this bus shelter portable by simply mounting the shed on a flatbed trailer. That way, he can park it out by the road during winter and then move it back into the farmyard during the rest of the year for use as a playhouse.



Mounted on a flatbed trailer, bus shelter can be parked out by the road during winter.

## Reader Recipes

### Old-Fashioned Egg Pie

1 1/2 cups sugar  
2 tsp flour  
2 eggs  
1 stick butter  
2 1/4 cups buttermilk  
1 9-in. pie shell, chilled

Mix sugar and flour; beat in eggs, one at a time until light and fluffy. Add butter and buttermilk. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 275° for 40 to 50 min.

### Basic Cleansing Cream

1/2 oz. beeswax  
1 oz. lanolin  
1 oz. distilled water  
3 to 4 oz. almond oil  
Pinch of borax

Put beeswax and lanolin in a heatproof bowl and melt slowly over warm water. Gently add oil and stir. Remove from heat. Slowly add water, stirring constantly until thickened. Stir in borax and put into sterilized jars and refrigerate. Use up cream within a few weeks.

### Baked Corn

3 cups fresh or frozen corn  
1 cup tomato sauce  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 tsp dry mustard  
1/2 tsp dry mustard  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp pepper  
1/8 tsp cayenne  
5 or more slices bacon

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine all ingredients, except bacon, and place in a quart casserole. Top with bacon and bake 1 hr. or until bacon is fairly crisp. Serve warm. Makes 4 servings.

### Campfire Squirrel

1. Shoot squirrel
2. Stick squirrel on spit (after picking out shot)
3. Roast squirrel over fire
4. Boil canned corn over fire
5. Serve squirrel and corn together