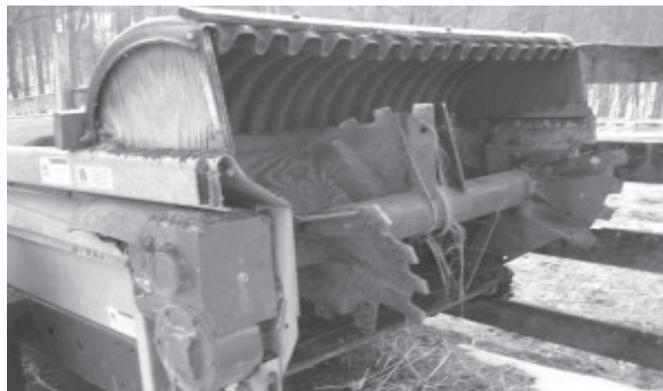




Homemade deflector attaches to back of New Idea manure spreader. It's made from a 1/3 section of a 28-in. dia. plastic pipe.



Deflector concentrates the spread of manure in the field, keeping it from kicking up in the air and blowing forward on windy days.

## Simple Deflector Controls Spread Of Manure

Adding a homemade deflector to his New Idea 3909 manure spreader helps Jesse Barley concentrate the spread of manure in the field and keeps it from kicking up in the air and blowing forward on windy days. Barley uses the modified spreader to form compost piles.

"It worked so well that when I bought a second spreader, I made a deflector for it, too," says Barley. "My brother-in-law saw it and wanted one for his spreader, so I made another."

Each deflector is made from a 1/3 section of a 28-in. dia. plastic pipe. The arc of the pipe just clears the beaters on the spreaders

by a couple inches.

To mount the deflectors, Barley first attached 3-in. long pieces of 2 by 3-in. angle iron to the side of the spreader where he wanted the front edge of the deflector to rest. He then attached a 2 by 4 to the lower (front) edge of the deflector, both as reinforcement and as a base to be attached to the angle iron.

Lengths of 1/2-in. bar stock bent into L-shapes support the rear edge of the deflector. The end of the long leg is bolted to existing holes in the body of the spreader, just behind the beaters. The short leg of the L is bolted to the edge of the deflector.

A furring strip attached to the upper (rear)

edge of the deflector helps stabilize it. "When the manure is wet, it will stick to the inside of the deflector and the furring strip keeps it from sagging," says Barley. "I mounted pieces of plywood between the spreader sides and the curve of the deflector on one spreader, but left the spaces open on the other two with no impact on the spread pattern."

Barley and his wife stable horses and remove the manure three times a day to control odor and flies. Manure is carried to a spreader which, when full, is used to mix and stockpile the manure through the winter. Each spring the previous summer's compost is spread on pastures and fields. Barley then

uses the spreaders to move the winter stockpile into place for composting throughout the summer. He uses a skid steer with pallet forks to mix and turn the compost twice. Then he rebuilds the pile using the skid steer bucket. By spring it's ready to spread.

Barley notes it's often hard to see where fine dry compost has been spread. "Thanks to the deflectors, it's easy to see the spread pattern from each pass," he says.

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## Turn Your Hand Sprayer Into A Wick Wiper

You can turn any hand pump sprayer into a precision wiper for use with Roundup or other non-selective herbicides by fitting this new "Weed Razer" onto the end of it.

"It works like a wick wiper and lets you kill only the weeds you want without damage to the surrounding plants," says inventor Travis Steglich, Bartlett, Texas. "There's no spray drift to harm other plants. It's a lot cheaper than buying a wick wiper."

The Weed Razer measures 3 in. long and

is made entirely of foam. It slips over the end of any spray wand and is held on with zip ties. To saturate the foam you simply depress the trigger on the spray wand. You adjust the foam's saturation level by how long you depress the trigger.

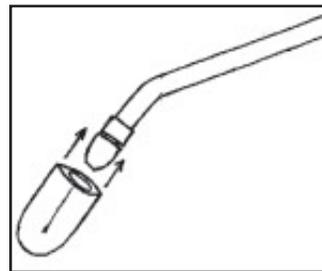
"It lets you wipe only the weed to be controlled with no overspray," says Steglich. "I came up with the idea because I needed a way to control nutsedge, dallisgrass and other hard-to-kill annuals, as well as perennial

weeds in my landscape without damaging the surrounding plants.

"When you want to spray larger areas, just remove the Weed Razer from the wand."

Sells for \$5.40 plus S&H. Five zip ties are included.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steglich Feed & Farm Supply, Inc., 142 S. Dalton, Bartlett, Texas 76511 (ph 800 281-8304 or 254 527-4433; travis@steglich.net; www.weedrazer.com).



"Weed Razer" slips over end of spray wand on any hand pump sprayer. It works like a wick wiper.

## Simple Way To Kill Invasive Trees

In the spring, when Ray Clay walks his quarter section of land near Reydon, Oklahoma, he's usually on a mission to kill the invasive cedar trees that suck up valuable moisture in his pasture.

But instead of a saw or other mechanical device, he simply drops Power Pellets near any trees or brush he wants to kill.

He started using the pellets in 2002 and it has become a yearly task.

"I first saw Power Pellets in a magazine and bought a bucket. I've been using them ever since," says Clay. "If you get enough moisture, you'll see the effect in 6 to 8 weeks."

Rain breaks down the antacid-size tablet and the active ingredient Hexazinone into the ground about 12 in., where it's drawn into the roots, says Bill Sander, president of Pro-Serve, Inc., manufacturer. The company provides precise instructions for each species of tree. For example, a 4-in. dia. cedar takes about six tablets dropped halfway between the trunk and canopy edge.

Clay has adapted the method for his situation. "Our problem is that we've had dry years so the cedar roots are going farther out to get water," Clay explains. He places the pellets up to 4 ft. away from the tree's drip line in order to be on top of the roots.

Though the pellets remain effective up to

six months, they should be applied in the spring when rainfall is most likely. Clay usually drops the pellets in April, the most likely time of year for rain in his region.

Power Pellets are recommended for mesquite, cedar, huisache, yucca, tallow and multiflora rose, but they also kill other hardwood and softwood species.

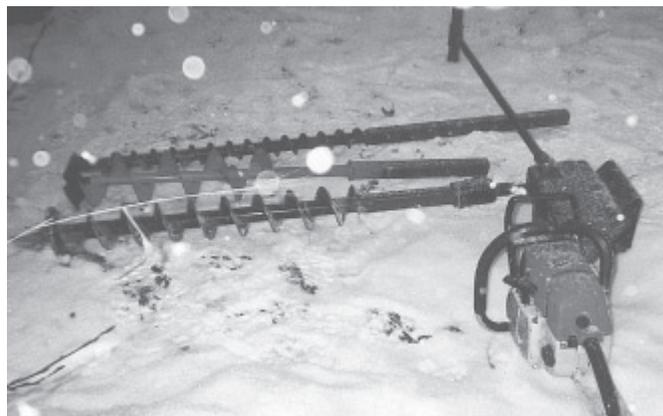
"They work on just about anything you want to put it on," Clay says. "It'll even get cottonwoods."

Follow the recommended doses, he suggests, and if part of a bigger tree remains green, treat it again the following year. Clay also spray paints trees he has treated so he doesn't double treat them. With annual treatments he's eliminating the biggest cedars and staying ahead of smaller ones that start.

At \$350 per 5 1/2-lb. bucket (3,900 pellets), it's more affordable than hiring someone to run a skidsteer and cutter for \$50 to \$60 per hour, Clay says. He can also walk and drop the pellets on slopes and in wooded areas where skidsteers can't go.

He says he's never seen any ill effects on his cattle, wildlife or birds and has been pleased with the results.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pro-Serve, Inc., P.O. Box 161059, Memphis, Tenn. 38109 (877 776-7375; www.proserveinc.com).



Keith Diehl converted a Stihl 041 chainsaw into a fast-working posthole digger.

## Digging Postholes With A Chainsaw

An old chainsaw has turned out to be a good posthole digger. Keith Diehl, 73, and his wife put in many 3 1/2-in. fence posts with his homebuilt digger.

"And I can drill through ice very fast," the Chetwynd, British Columbia, inventor adds, speculating he could likely win a hole drilling contest among ice fishermen.

He re-machined the clutch and installed a 1/2-in. V-belt pulley to replace the chain sprocket and mounted gear ratio reduction pulleys and chains on the chainsaw's bar. On the bottom, he welded a 3/4-in. extension from a socket set and telescoped a couple sizes of square tubing to attach the auger. He

drilled a hole through the tubing and auger and uses a pin to hold it in place.

He attached a 4-ft. pipe and T-handle perpendicular to the saw for a second person to hold. "With my wife holding the big handle and me holding the chainsaw we have good control over the torque factor," says Diehl. Bringing the drill up is a little more work, but he keeps it spinning. Diehl used a Stihl 041 saw, which provides plenty of power without being too heavy.

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