



Larry Walton built this front-end loader for his Murray 15 hp riding mower. It can be raised up to 50 in. high and dumped.

## High-Lift Mini Loader Fits Garden Tractor

Moving landscaping materials around is a much easier job for Larry Walton ever since he built a front-end loader for his Murray 15 hp riding mower.

The loader bucket can be raised up to 50 in. high and dumped.

"I built it because I couldn't find anything on the market that would lift high enough," says Walton. "It comes in handy for a variety of jobs that would otherwise have to be performed by a large tractor."

The loader is operated by a 12-volt electric winch that hooks up directly to the tractor battery. The winch is used to do both the lifting and the dumping and has a lift capacity of up to 90 lbs. The bucket measures 42 in. wide, 12 in. deep, and 12 in. high.

A pair of levers or a 2-button control box are used to operate the lift and the power dump simultaneously.

The loader frame is made from 1-in. sq. tubing and attaches to the tractor's frame with four bolts. A mast extends over the tractor hood and supports the winch. The winch is connected to a pair of cables, one on each side of the mast, that ride over pulleys and down to the back side of the bucket.

A pair of handles are used to operate the bucket - one to dump it and the other to relatch it. A control box located next to the steering column is used to operate the winch to raise or lower the loader.

"It's a universal setup that bolts onto any type of riding mower or garden tractor," says Walton, who also built a loader to fit his 25 hp Husqvarna garden tractor. "I use it to clean



Loader is operated by a 12-volt electric winch that hooks up directly to tractor battery.

out livestock trailers and barns, to remove snow from my driveway, to spread gravel, and to dump loads into my pickup or trailer.

"I pull back on one handle to dump the bucket, then pull back on the other handle to bring the bucket back up and relatch it. The bucket latch is spring loaded so it always stays in place."

The loader can be attached or detached in about five minutes. Some drilling in the tractor's frame is required. "The loader's mounting brackets would interfere with a belly-mounted mower, so I have to remove the mower to use the loader," says Walton.

He also built a set of bale forks that bolt on inside the bucket, and a grapple fork that can be used to haul brush, loose hay, and so forth.

Walton says he spent less than \$200 to build the scoop. He's looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Walton, Walton Enterprises, Rt. 1, Box 110, Fall River, Kansas 67047 (ph 620 658-4468).

## Cab-Mounted Camera "Sees All"

Carl Walter, Spring Valley, Ill., used 1-in. sq. tubing to make a camera mounting bracket for the top of the cab on his Deere 8120 MFWD tractor, which he uses to pull his grain cart.

"The sq. tubing that supports the camera is a little too high for the door on my machine shed, but I can fold it down when not in use," says Walter.

He bolted a small metal bracket to an existing hole on top of the cab, then bolted the sq. tubing to bracket. The camera came on a bracket that Walter bolted onto the tubing.

Walter mounted a second camera on back of the grain cart to see traffic. A 7-in. color monitor in the cab lets him watch either camera.

"I tried using extended mirrors on the tractor to see traffic behind the cart, but that didn't work. I also tried different locations on the cart for mounting the camera to see when unloading the cart, but the auger blocked most views," says Walter. "In order to see the entire wagon or truck that I was unloading grain into, I found the best location was to mount the camera on top of the tractor cab. I may mount a camera on back of my combine to see behind, and one in the combine's grain



Carl Walter mounted a camera on top of his tractor cab and also on back of his grain cart to see traffic. A monitor in the cab lets him watch either camera.

tank to monitor how full the tank is. "The wiring for the cart-mounted camera runs inside some galvanized conduit."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carl Walter, 16458 3100 East St., Spring Valley, Ill. 61362 (ph 815 894-2813).



Chris Coutre makes pools that are more like swimming holes. "With the plants, filtration and aeration, you get real clean water like with a spring fed pond," he says.

## How To Make A Backyard "Chemical-Free" Swimming Hole

If you ever wanted a backyard swimming hole - as opposed to a swimming pool - you should talk to Chris Coutre. He started making decorative garden pools but has branched out into "natural" backyard swimming holes with no chlorine added.

"I had a couple of clients who wanted larger pools to swim in," says Coutre. He soon began making specialty pools big enough to swim in, but without the concrete and added chemicals of traditional swimming pools. His pools are more like swimming holes, with opportunities for snorkeling for frogs and turtles or even perhaps a little fishing.

"With the plants, filtration and aeration, you get real clean water like with a spring fed pond," he says. "It takes a couple of years to get a pool in balance, but by the second or third year, you can have a good ecosystem of plants and fish with water so clear, you can see a dime at a 9-ft. depth."

Coutre digs down to the desired depth and leaves nearly vertical sides. He says this helps ensure that leaves and other trash will land on a flat surface where it can more easily be removed.

Pools are lined with rubber butyl. Coutre also recommends a vacuum system be installed to minimize maintenance since leaves and trash can clog the filter.

Coutre also installs his own oversized, water filtration systems. "When I started out, I bought pre-built filters, but they weren't adequate for the bigger volume," he says. Now he has people contacting him for his filters to put in existing ponds.

By the time plants have been in a pool for a second year, they also begin to contribute to clarity by removing nutrients. Within a couple of years, he says they can often be split and reestablished.

"People usually need to buy additives the first year or two to starve out the algae, but with each year's plant growth, they need less," he says. "Initially, the maintenance is about like a standard swimming pool, but over time that also decreases."

Another key to long-term clarity and pond health is aeration. Here too, Coutre likes to oversize for swimming pools. The water is pumped through the filter and back into the pool via waterfalls and streams.

"Any break in the surface adds oxygen," he explains.

Unfortunately, a Coulee Country swimming hole doesn't come cheap. The liners, filter systems, pumps and excavation add up. A few pools have run well over \$100,000. Less elaborate ones more commonly run in the \$30,000 to 40,000 range. Pools big enough for kids to swim in and adults to sit and relax in can be built for \$20,000 or less.

While he usually works only in Wisconsin, Coutre says he would be happy to consult by phone in other areas. He also sells his filtration systems and other supplies for building and maintaining backyard "swimming holes."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Coulee Country Landscape Design, 1901 Carver St., Madison, Wis. 53713 (ph 608 251-2227; www.coulee-country.com).



Small 12-in. wide gate lets people walk in or out of paddock without having to open the adjoining gate.

## Walk-Through Gate Opening

"I raise horses and got tired of having to open gates all the time just so I could walk in or out of the paddock. So at one end of my gates, I built a smaller gate with a 12-in. wide opening that lets me walk through without having to open the gate," says Lyle Rawn, Mount Forest, Ontario.

The two gates are chained together. Whenever Rawn wants to open the gate he just unhooks a chain and swings the gate open.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lyle Rawn, RR 3, Mount Forest, Ontario, Canada N0G 2L0 (ph 519 323-1537).