They Turn Walls Into Gardens

You can plant a garden on a wall, inside or outside, with a living wall kit from Elevated Landscape Technologies (ELT).

“We sell retail kits as well as larger custom-designed systems complete with irrigation and lighting,” says Greg Garner, president, ELT. “Our largest so far was for a shopping mall in England. It’s around 3,000 square yards in one location.”

Benefits include cleaner and fresher air, cooler walls in the summer and warmer walls in the winter, as well as, of course, easily picked fresh produce.

“Our dealers can provide a recommended list of plants, maintenance schedules and likely plant replacement schedules for your area,” says Garner. “You need to evaluate the load bearing capacity of the wall or floor.”

Residential retail kits are much smaller.

A Living Wall Single Kit is 31 in. high by 22 in. wide by 6 in. deep. It’s priced at $395 and ready to go, complete with a cedar stand, manual irrigation system and instructions. A 59-in. tall Double Kit is priced at $537.99. All you need to add is soil, plants and water.

For suggestions on a do-it-yourself wall garden, visit the Gardening Tips ‘n Ideas website. It offers links to several different types of on-the-wall growing systems at gardeningtipsideas.com/2008/07/start-ing_a_diy_vertical_garden.html. They Turn Walls Into Gardens

Hammer Collector Is Always Looking For “One More”

What started as a quest searching for one unusual hammer, resulted in a collection of more than 1,400 hammers for Dale G. Palmer. About 20 years ago the Alba, Penn., man set out to find a hammer with the family’s name on it. He had remembered that his father had a hammer made by the Palmer Hammer Co. As he searched at flea markets, he found other interesting hammers that he purchased - usually for $1 or less. About 20 hammers later, he found a Palmer hammer without a handle and purchased it for 50 cents.

“The guy asked if I collected hammers and I said yes, Palmer was recalled. As he walked away he asked the vendor tell others, ‘He collects hammers.’ And so it came to be.

In the beginning, Palmer had no problem finding 100 different hammers a year to add to his collection - most of them inexpensive. He purchased books that showed all the companies that made hammers from the late 1800’s into the 20th Century.

“Many hammers were made for a special purpose,” Palmer says. “I don’t know what some of them were made for.”

He’s collected hammers used by blacksmiths, silversmiths, bricklayers, shoemakers, farriers and factory workers, for example.

He has branding hammers used to mark the ends of logs sent down the river to a mill and lathe work to complete. “I recommend these guns only be attempted by someone with experience, like a retired machinist,” he says. “I can only turn out about three a year. Working steadily on one, it will take about 600 hours to complete. Some customers have also successfully modified our plans to produce full-size versions”

Even though the difficulty in completing a gun limits the market, Moore says he has sold more than 500 kits and some 8,000 sets of blue prints over the past 18 years. The kit sells for $719, and the fully finished gun, when formerly. Plans and a CD of 3-D images of each part and assembly are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RG-G, Inc., P.O. Box 935, Trinidad, Colo. 81082 (ph/fax 719 404-3782; paulmoore@rmi.net; www.gatlingguns.net).

Build Your Own Gatling Gun

You can pump out up to 600 rounds a minute with an 1800’s style Gatling gun from RG-G, Inc. The half-size design uses 50-round clips of .22-caliber ammunition fired by a battery of 10 rotating barrels.

“Just like taking mine out and firing it,” explains Paul Moore, designer and builder of the gun. “Sometimes people thinking of buying one will stop by, and we’ll set it up and fire a clip to get their curiosity piqued.”

Moore, an engineer and machinist by trade, fell in love with Gatling guns while watching cowboy movies as a kid. Years later, he built his first one from scratch, relying on pictures of different models introduced in the late 1800’s.

“I realized a set of blueprints were needed, so I disassembled the one I had built and drew them up,” he recalls.

For many years he built and sold fully assembled and partially completed versions of the guns in addition to parts and plans. Today he only sells the parts and plans.

“My guns use the original gravity-fed, in-feed design,” says Moore. “The in-feed jams up easily, and then it has to be reset. It’s just too way the original design works.”

Selling the kits and plans ensures that buyers will understand and be able to fix the guns themselves. Kits consist of all hardened metal (screws, nuts, bolts, bushings, gears, springs and bearings) as well as rifled barrel liners and ground firing pins. Brass and steel parts that need to be machined are also included. The only raw materials missing are some parts for the carriage and yoke and mill and lathe work to complete. “I recommend these guns only be attempted by someone with experience, like a retired machinist,” he says. “I can only turn out about three a year. Working steadily on one, it will take about 600 hours to complete. Some customers have also successfully modified our plans to produce full-size versions”

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Half-size 1800’s-style Gatling gun uses 50-round clips of .22-caliber ammunition, fired by a battery of 10 rotating barrels.

Dale Palmer has more than 1,400 different hammers in his collection. They date from the late 1800’s into the 20th Century.

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