

“Loader Ladder” Helps Spray Tall Trees

Ron VanEtten needed to spray the tops of his apple and elm trees, which were being destroyed by Japanese beetles. So, the Ellsworth, Ill. man set up a 32-ft. aluminum extension ladder to lift high over his 20 hp compact tractor, attaching a 10-ft. long homemade spray boom to the top of the ladder.

He uses the tractor’s front-end loader and 3-pt. hitch to raise and lower the ladder. The bottom of the ladder pivots on a 3-pt. mounted “pallet jack”, while the middle rolls on a wooden frame bolted to the loader bucket. A 50-ft. hose runs from the spray boom down the ladder to a 10-gal. tank and spray pump mounted on back of the tractor. A rocker switch on the tractor is used to operate the pump.

“It lets me spray anywhere from about 3 ft. off the ground to 40 ft. in the air, depending on how much I raise the bucket and 3-pt. hitch. With the ladder all the way up it makes for quite a sight,” says VanEtten. “I use it only about 6 weeks during the year, from the last week of June until the first week of August, but it really works. The only limitation is that with the ladder fully extended I have to be

careful so the tractor doesn’t tip over. Also, I have to be very careful around power lines.”

VanEtten has about 140 trees on his small acreage and says Japanese beetles are a big problem in his area.

“At first I tried setting a ladder in the loader bucket and leaning it against a tree, but it was dangerous and I still couldn’t reach the top of the tree. As a result, the beetles consumed the top third of the tree before I could do anything about it.”

He bought a hand sprayer with 10 ft. of hose and replaced the hose with one that’s 50 ft. long. Then he attached a 10-ft. length of 1 1/2-in. pvc drain pipe to the end of the hose and taped a sprayer nozzle and foam marker onto it. A car battery operates the spray pump.

The bottom of the ladder mounts on a 3-pt. mounted pallet jack that he bought at Tractor Supply. He bolted 4-ft. high extensions onto the pallet attachment and mounted the ladder on it, using 1/2-in. conduit pipe as a pivot point.

The middle part of the ladder rolls on a pair of boat trailer rollers that mount on top of a 7-ft. high wooden frame that bolts onto the loader bucket. He used 2 by 4’s to build the



To spray the tops of his apple and elm trees, Ron VanEtten lifts a 32-ft. aluminum extension ladder high over his 20 hp compact tractor. A 10-ft. long homemade spray boom attaches to top of ladder.

vertical supports for the frame, and 2 by 6’s to build a cross piece that supports the rollers.

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Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron

One-Step Launcher Makes Trapshooting Easy

Trapshooting has never been as easy as it is with the “One Step”. Just step down on the foot pedal to cock and launch up to two clay targets at once. The aluminum arm and oil impregnated bronze bushings make the unit trouble free.

Set the unit on the ground, load the tray with targets, and get ready to shoot. The One Step releases the target in a single smooth motion. A high angle target clip, combined with tension and vertical angle adjusting knobs, makes it easy to vary trajectories.

The 21-lb. launcher has a suggested retail price of \$114.95. It’s available from the company website for that price, but often available at sporting goods retailers for a lower price.



To use “One Step” trapshoot launcher, you just step down on a foot pedal to cock and launch up to 2 clay targets at once.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lyman Products Corp., 475 Smith St., Middletown, Conn. 06457 (ph 860 632-2020; toll free 800 225-9626; www.lymanproducts.com/trius).

Instead of a pan, the Duke DP Coon Trap has a 1 1/2-in. steel pipe with a trigger inside. Raccoon reaches in for bait placed in pipe when he gets caught.



Raccoon Trap Safe To Use Anywhere

The Duke DP Coon Trap eliminates a big problem when setting a trap. You want to catch a raccoon, not the neighbor’s dog.

The dog-proof style has been around for years, but the Duke Company, which has been making traps since 1986, has improved and modified it to sell at the low price of \$12.95 each or \$149.95 a dozen.

“It’s specific for raccoons,” says Bill Duke, who is part of the family-owned company, which started selling the trap in July and has already had a tremendous response.

Instead of a pan found on a traditional leghold trap, the trap has a 1 1/2-in. steel pipe with a trigger inside to spring the trap. It’s

based on habit. A raccoon will reach in for bait or lure placed in the pipe and pull back.

Since dogs won’t reach into the trap with their paw, the trap’s especially useful in populated settings with raccoon problems. Slip a marshmallow or cotton ball with coon lure on it into the pipe to set the Duke DP Coon Trap. Then jab the spear end into the ground at a slight angle so it’s at eye level for a raccoon.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duke Company, P.O. Box 555, West Point, Miss. 39773 (ph 662 494-6767; www.duketrap.com).



Elroy Lindaas hangs a burned-out, 4-ft. long, 40-watt fluorescent bulb on electric fence. Bulb lights up with each surge of fence charger.

Flashing Light Keeps Raccoons Out

After trying just about every trick in the book to keep raccoons out of sweet corn, Elroy Lindaas, Mayville, N. Dak., hit upon a simple solution that works. He uses a homemade “flashing light” attachment for electric fences to scare off night predators.

He simply hangs a burned-out, 4-ft. long, 40-watt fluorescent bulb at a place where raccoons usually cross. The bulb lights up with each surge of the fence charger and doesn’t reduce strength of the electrical charge going through the fence.

“The flashing light also serves as a distant night signal to tell me if the fence is on and working properly,” says Lindaas.

“I solder a copper wire to the electrode

prongs at each end of the bulb in a hook fashion. I place one hook over the hot wire on my electric barbed wire fence, and the other hook on anything that will serve as a ground, such as a steel post. The light will flash, even if it’s burned out, because the mercury vapor is still inside it.”

The flashing light can attract attention from 2-legged critters, too. “One time an elderly neighbor lady drove into my yard and to warn me there was a strange light flashing in my garden. She thought it might be a UFO.”

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How To Save Money When Graveling A Road

Darol Dickinson got tired of paying for road gravel that he didn’t need. So he came up with a simple idea that lets dump trucks spread gravel only over vehicles’ tire tracks.

“We operate a large ranch where the soil is prone to get muddy. We often put in new all-weather pasture roads, or resurface old ones,” says Dickinson. “Normally, the dump truck will lay an apron of gravel 3 in. thick across the width of the road. It costs about \$200 to gravel 200 ft. of road so the cost really adds up in a hurry. We needed a way to reduce the cost.”

His solution is to lay a 6-in. sq. 4-ft. long wood block in the center of the truck’s inside dump gate when the truck is empty. The truck

driver opens the gate 1 in. high to let gravel out, but the block limits the release of gravel to two 18-in. wide streams on either side of the gate where the wheels track. The two 18-in. wide streams of gravel are about the width of a set of dualies on a pickup.

“The 4-ft. wide section in the middle of the road doesn’t get any gravel. As a result, a truck with an 8 1/2-ft. wide bed can go twice as far before it runs out of gravel. It saves a lot of money,” says Dickinson.

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