

“Tree Truck” Gets Watering Done Quick

Watering trees is a fast and comfortable job for one Alberta man, thanks to the economical system he devised.

Norm Belanger of Pickardville, Alta., can water the 450 trees he’s planted around his property in just over 3 hrs. by using a pickup he modified for the job.

“My 1980 Chevy that I picked up for \$500 a few years ago, hauls a 350-gal. water tank that’s filled with a 3-in. pump. The most time saving feature is how I plumbed the outlet hose to enable me to water trees as I drive,” Belanger explains. “The best part is that the whole thing – truck, tank, hoses, valves – cost me only about \$1,200.”

He first removed the driver’s side door and then used a 3-in. hole saw to cut a hole in the back of the cab for the hose. He lined the hole with rubber so it wouldn’t cut the hose. An extended valve on the hose makes it easy to control the flow of water out the pipe.

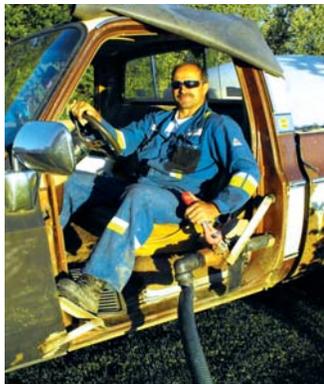
Belanger made a foot rest from scrap metal, installing it on the edge of the door opening. This, he says, is because he wanted to be comfortable and needs to sit at an angle toward the door while operating the discharge hose.

Because the driver’s door was removed, he mounted a rubber flap to the outer roof of the cab and this allows him to leave it hanging down for rain protection when the truck’s not in use. Otherwise, he throws it up, out of the way, onto the roof.

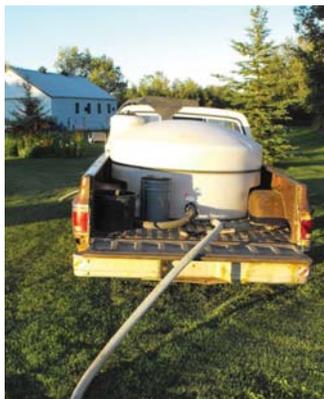
Belanger also replaced the original steering wheel with a smaller 12-in. jobber steering wheel in order to make it easier getting in and out of the cab.

“I pump water from my dugout, which collects there from spring runoff,” he says, “and I water my trees once a week on average and can do 140 trees per hour, round trip, including filling the 350-gal. tank.”

Once filled, he unhooks that hose and connects the shorter section that’s used for dispensing water just outside the driver’s door to water trees.



Belanger removed the driver’s side door from his pickup, allowing him to water trees as he drives. Outlet hose is plumbed into a 350-gal. tank on back of pickup.



Tank is filled by pumping water out of pond.

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Cultivator has rolling coulters on front and 5-tine Lilliston spider wheels on back. S-tine shanks in the middle break up tractor wheel tracks.

Hillside Cultivator Adjusts For Slope

Faced with cultivating his strawberry and other fruit crops with a rototiller or traditional cultivator, John Shenk designed his own. While rototiller units can chew the ground up too much, traditional cultivators can cover rows with dirt, as well as rip and drag plastic and mulch, especially on hillsides. Shenk’s cultivator addressed all his concerns.

“It has an outer frame and an inner frame with mounted gangs that can be adjusted left and right hydraulically as you drive,” says Shenk. “This is especially useful when cultivating alongside plastic mulch. The rear gangs can even be set to throw dirt over the edge of the plastic.”

The gangs consist of sets of four rolling coulters in the front and five-tine Lilliston spider gangs in the rear. S-tine shanks are positioned to break up the wheel track.

Each pair of tillage gangs, front and back, is positioned to either side of the row. Each gang pitch can be adjusted up to 25 degrees, and the mounting plate allows for lateral adjustment and for angling the gang.

“Even with the gangs set, rear-mounted units tend to hang down hill a bit,” says Shenk. “With the hydraulic cylinders, it’s easy to adjust them back up hill.”

Shenk, who started Hillside Cultivator Co., offers two styles of hydraulically-operated cultivators, one specifically designed for blueberries. They are each priced at just under \$3,000. A fixed frame, non-hydraulic unit is



Each pair of tillage gangs, both front and back, are positioned to either side of row. Gang pitch can be adjusted up to 25 degrees.

available for just under \$2,000. All of the cultivators are sized for 35 to 50-hp tractors.

The cultivators can also be configured with existing gangs set to either side and a third set of gangs center-mounted. The third set of gangs adds an additional \$520 to the price.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hillside Cultivator Co., 911 Disston View Dr., Lititz, Penn. 17543 (717 626-6194; sales@shenkberrymfarm.com; www.hillsidecultivator.com).

“Antique Tractor” Yard Light

Anyone who’s into antique tractors will be interested in this new weatherproof, vintage yard light that can be used either indoors or outdoors and custom-painted to match your favorite brand of tractor.

The yard light consists of a 22-in. long cast metal housing that looks like a tractor hood, with decals on both sides and a real tractor exhaust and rain cap on top. It comes with an extension cord and a remote-operated switch. A remote receiver plugs into a standard wall outlet, and the extension cord plugs into the receiver. Outdoor models can be fitted with a photo cell that replaces the rain cap, which causes the light to come on automatically at night. The light’s mounting bracket attaches with 3 screws.

J.J. Waldhalm makes the lights by salvaging the “cobra head” metal housings from discarded streetlights.

“We use a quality tractor paint with a clearcoat shine so they really look nice. People smile and shake their head when they first see them,” says Waldhalm. “If you want I can add decals for the tractor model along with your farm’s name. I’m always willing to make what the customer wants.”

“I got the idea because for years I worked as an electric lineman, and I got tired of watching old street lights get thrown away. I



Vintage yard light can be custom-painted to match your favorite brand of tractor. It looks like a tractor hood, with decals on both sides and a real tractor exhaust and rain cap on top.

grew up on a hobby farm and always loved tractors, so I decided to recycle the materials.

“People also mount the lights above their work bench or in their game room, or even use them as a reading light in the living room. Outside, they mount the lights above the entry door to a shed or on a fence, etc. One customer mounted his light above an outdoor sauna.

“The lights come with a 100-watt bulb, but you can put in any size bulb you want.” A standard light equipped with a remote switch sells for \$275 plus S&H.

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When he recently set up a bar in his garage, Dale Mounce decided to make up some tractor décor. He converted an IH 560 tractor hood into an overhead “bar light”.



IH Tractor Hood Made Into Overhead Bar Light

Dale Mounce of Downing, Wis., grew up farming with an IH 560 tractor. So, when he recently set up a bar in his garage, he decided to make up some tractor décor. He converted an IH 560 tractor hood into an overhead “bar light”.

He cut the grill off the hood and then mounted a 4-ft. long set of fluorescent lights inside the hood. The lights are screwed to the top of the hood.

“It’s nothing fancy, but I get a lot of

comments and questions on it. Everyone wants to know where I got that fancy tractor hood. I tell them I like to restore tractors, and that the hood was left over from a recent tractor restoration project,” says Mounce, who works at All States Ag Parts, one of the largest chains of salvage yards in the U.S.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Mounce, ASAP Tractor Parts, E1140 State Road 170, Downing, Wis. 54734 (ph 877 530-1010; dtp@asapagparts.com).