

“Milk Jug” Fly Traps

“Since I started using this idea I’ve never bitten into an apple or other piece of fruit with a worm in it,” says Paul Olson, Ogilvie, Minn., about the way he controls bugs in his orchard without using any chemicals.

“Whenever I plant a new fruit tree I place a 1-gal. milk jug, with a solution of 1/3 water, 1/3 vinegar and 1/3 sugar – about 2 cups of each – next to it. Later as the tree grows, I place the jug in the lower crotch of the tree, secured with a piece of twine. The bugs are attracted to the smell of the solution and can’t get back out of the jug. I catch everything from horse flies to deer flies to mosquitoes, and all kinds of other bugs that I can’t even identify.”

Olson mixes the solution in a 5-gal. bucket and uses a funnel to put it into jugs. Once a year he tosses the old jugs and puts out new

ones. He also raises honey bees, but they don’t go into the jugs.

“You’d be surprised at the number and kinds of bugs I find in the jugs. Each jug will have a 1-in. thick layer of bugs in it by fall.

“It’s an old trick that I learned from my stepdad. I’m 77 years old, and he was already using this idea when I was born. I grow everything from apples, pears, plums, apricots, cherries, and Kiwis and try to grow everything as chemical-free as I can. After 41 years of growing fruit I haven’t sprayed my orchard yet. Of course, having a flock of Guinea hens and chicks around doesn’t hurt either,” he says.

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Paul Olson uses 1-gal. milk jugs, filled with a mixture of water, vinegar and sugar, to control bugs on the plants fruit trees in his orchard.

Automatic Ash Removal Takes The Work Out Of Burning Corn

Removing ash from a basement corn stove is easy with this vacuum system set up by Eugene Krause, Medford, Minn.

Krause heats his home largely with corn. A duct system takes heat off the stove and runs it through his home’s forced air system. He likes heating with corn but got tired of carrying ashes out of the house by hand. “My homemade vacuum system cleans the ashes out automatically,” says Krause.

He attached a leaf blower onto the lid of a metal garbage can that’s outside the house and ran a metal pipe from the can, through the basement wall, and into the house. There, the pipe hooks up to a vacuum cleaner hose that sucks ashes from the stove’s firepot. A small metal flap inside the can directs hot ash downward so it doesn’t enter directly into the plastic leaf blower.

The leaf blower’s electric cord is plugged into a wall outlet outside the house. To start the blower, Krause simply flips a switch in the basement.

To attach the leaf blower to the garbage can’s lid, he cut off part of the vacuum attachment on the bottom of the leaf blower and also cut a hole in the garbage can’s lid,

caulking up the opening to seal it.

Corn is delivered to the stove by a flex auger off an old hog feeder that goes through the basement wall. The auger delivers corn from a wagon into a home-built hopper that mounts on top of the stove. The hopper can hold three days worth of corn.

“My cleanout system works great because I don’t have to shut the corn stove down to clean it out,” says Krause. “I place an old towel over the hopper on top of the corn stove to keep dust from building up in the basement. We live on a farm with no close neighbors so I don’t need to use a filter on the leaf blower to trap the particles of fine ash.

“I use the same vacuum system to clean the ashes out of a wood stove in my basement. I hook up an old metal vacuum canister to the system in order to collect larger ash particles and trash that could otherwise plug up the hose. I burn a lot of scrap lumber and pallets in the stove, and the vacuum canister collects larger ash particles and trash such as nails and cinders.”

The vacuum canister had a bad motor, which he removed. He bolted a metal plate over the opening where the motor had been,



Leaf blower attaches to lid of garbage can outside house. Metal pipe runs into basement and hooks up to a vacuum cleaner hose, which sucks ashes from stove’s firepot.

then hooked a vacuum cleaner hose up to it.

“To remove clunkers from the canister I disconnect the hoses and remove the lid, then dump the can into the garbage container,” says Krause.

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Wayne Beggs bolted together 3 big 22-in. truck tires, which he uses as a drag to knock down fire ant mounds.

“Truck Tire Destructor” Flattens Earth Mounds

Fire ants in Southern states can take over pastures and hay fields, building mounds that are hard to work around with a mower of any size. Often, the mower’s blades get damaged. Wayne Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga., came up with a low-cost solution – a “truck tire destructor” that he pulls behind his Deere Gator utility vehicle. In other areas, the unit could be used to level out gopher mounds.

“I bolted together 3 big 22-in. truck tires to use as a drag to knock down the mounds before cutting a hay field,” he explains. “I

used 5 bolts that are 3 1/2 in. long by 5/8 in. dia., with large 3 1/2-in. washers. The angle iron on front is off an old 7-ft. hay dump rake. The hardest part was drilling bolt holes through the wire mesh in the radial tire’s tread – I almost had to use a torch to make the holes.”

The tire drag can also be used on a dirt road to smooth out wheel ruts, he notes.

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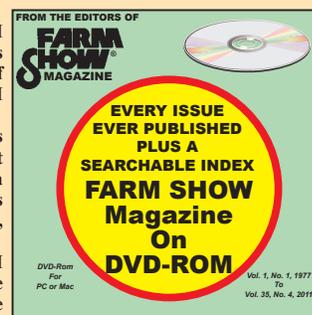
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