

Satellite Dish Arms Hold Protective Garden Netting

"I needed to keep deer from eating the vegetables in my raised garden beds. So I set up a series of plastic arms from old satellite dishes to hold netting that covers the garden," says Jim Willford, Gladwin, Mich.

He raises vegetables in two raised garden beds made from railroad ties, with each garden measuring about 25 ft. long and 40 in. wide. The dish arms are spaced about 10 ft. apart along each garden.

A 1 by 8 board that runs the length of the garden across the top of the dish arms, screws to each set of arms. The bottom of each arm is screwed to the garden wall.

A length of conduit runs down both sides of the arms, with the bottom edge of the netting duct taped to the conduit. Willford can raise or lower the conduit as needed to work in the bed. He just lifts the entire length of the conduit up onto 1 1/2-in. long screws that stick out of the arms about 3 1/2 ft. off the ground. A sprinkler hose hangs from hooks

under the top board, so watering can be done easily and the hose is never in the way of tilling.

"It works really well. My wife and I use it to grow onions, chives, beets, carrots, strawberries and so forth," says Willford. "We were already using the raised garden beds to grow strawberries, but we had to place netting on top of the berries and hold it down with boards to keep deer away. Every time we wanted to work we had to take the boards and netting off. Now all we do is lift the conduit and set it up out of the way.

"I didn't spend more than \$10 to build it, and most of that was for screws. I got the satellite dish arms from a neighbor and already had the netting."

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Plastic arms off old satellite dishes are used to hold netting that covers Willford's raised garden. He can raise or lower netting as needed to work in the garden.

"Sifter" Works Even When Soil Is Wet

When clay soil is wet, most composters have to shut down because their screeners plug up or the hydraulics break down. They can only screen when it's dry, which is the same time they should be doing other important tasks.

Ray Torrey's Snake Mountain Rattler screener works anytime and produces a finer product that's perfect for most landscaping jobs. He prefers screening soil when it's wet.

"When you try to screen dry, dirt gets in your eyes, ears, mouth, nose and lungs. Airborne dirt clogs the air intake of your equipment, and it makes everything filthy," he says.

The Rattler has a different design than other screeners.

"It's like a bicycle, or a 4-cylinder motor," Torrey explains. "As one section of the rack is coming up, another is coming down. Weight pushing down on one section helps to raise its counterpart."

Torrey cuts teeth in 2 1/2-in. flat bars

that move next to 1-in. stationary flat bars. The stationary bars act like wipers. The crank spins at 300 rpm's, powered by a 5 hp motor, which is more efficient and uses less energy than hydraulics. The Rattler screener has double bearings, easy access to grease fittings, and can be easily taken apart to replace parts.

After building several prototypes, Torrey's latest model has about a 4 by 4-ft. opening and fits in the bed of a pickup truck. He estimates it will sell for about \$6,000.

He's also designed a "Baby" Rattler, a small wheelbarrow unit, powered by a cordless drill, for gardeners and homeowners.

While used mostly for compost and topsoil, the Rattler also successfully screened crushed limestone from an old mine. A farmer used it to screen gravel for sand for cattle bedding. Torrey notes that it could be used for ditch clean up right on site to return soil to dirt roads and leave rocks and debris in the ditch.



Cranks at end of machine raise and lower sections of serrated teeth that move between flat steel bars. You can see a video of it in action at the company's website.

Because the Rattler works with wet soil, Torrey can provide nurseries and landscapers freshly screened soil anytime they need it.

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Sample Soil Fast With Collect-N-Go

Kenny Neel has a hole in his bucket that makes soil sampling fast and easy. Neel is a crop consultant who got tired of walking fields and pulling samples the hard way.

"I wanted to speed sampling, but also minimize soil loss while collecting subsamples within a sample area," explains Neel.

His Collect-N-Go Soil Sample Collection Kit solves both problems. It includes a bucket, an auger and a security tie. The auger works with any battery-powered drill. The bucket has a specially designed collector tube inside that extends out from the bottom.

"The operator simply pushes the bucket into the ground where the sample is to be taken and runs the auger through the collection tube into the ground," explains Neel. "The ruler on the side of the bucket helps ensure consistent sampling depths."

As the auger is pulled back out of the ground, dirt cascades into the bucket to mix with other samples from the same area. The collection tube protruding inside the bucket keeps sample dirt from falling out of the bucket. When all samples have been taken, the pour spout on the bucket makes bagging the sample easy.

"The Collect-N-Go cuts collecting time in half and handles even hard soil conditions," says Neel. "In sandy soil you don't have to worry about it falling out of the probe before you have it in the bucket."

The kit is priced at \$44.95. Replacement



Collector tube extends up from bottom of bucket. To collect soil sample, the operator runs a cordless drill-powered auger through tube and into the ground.

augers are priced at \$36.95.

Visit www.farmshow.com for a video of Collect-N-Go in use.

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Fence row sprayer is made from a 3-ft. long galvanized pipe with a flexible nipple and spray nozzle at one end. Nipple bends and won't break if it hits fence.

Simple Fence Row Sprayer

"When you keep your fence rows clean, it helps keep weeds out of your crops," says Warren Napier, a Lincoln, Ark., hay grower. Until last year, he used a handheld sprayer to apply Roundup along 3 miles of fence, which took a week – twice a year.

Last year, he sprayed the fence lines in a day with a sprayer he mounted on his ATV.

"I bought a 20-gal. tank and made a fence line sprayer out of 3-ft., 3/4-in. galvanized pipe with a 3-in. flexible nipple with spray

nozzle. The nipple bends and won't break if it hits the fence," says Napier.

He plumbed the tank with a quick disconnect so he can also put a wand on it with a cluster nozzle to spray ditches and other areas.

He hooked up an electric pump to the ATV's battery to run the sprayer.

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