

World's Largest Hanging Basket Weighs 2 Tons

When Jonn Karsseboom says he's passionate about hanging baskets, he means it. This spring he unveiled a 2-ton, 16-ft. tall by 10-ft. wide basket at his garden center in Tualatin, Ore. He believes it's the world's largest hanging basket.

Built by wrought iron worker Don Sprague, it hangs about 4 ft. off the ground and holds live plants. Workers climb a ladder to get into the basket when they want to change plants — which Karsseboom plans to do often for different seasons and holidays.

While creating the world's largest hanging basket has attracted visitors, the business owner says his main goal is to make people aware of hanging baskets.

"Hanging baskets bring gardening into people's lives with the least amount of effort for the greatest benefit," he says. He started making hanging baskets in all shapes and sizes 22 years ago and is still excited about all the possibilities.

The giant basket is supported by I-beams on a large piece of steel secured to the ground with 3-ft. metal stakes.

"We tried to over-engineer it, and it has extra support welds and rings on top," he explains. The basket is balanced and swings and turns with a hook on the wrought iron basket and a hook on the stand. It was built in place by adding parts with forklifts and other equipment.

Weight varies with the size of the plants, but is about 2 tons when watered. Workers slip a garden hose over the top and water until



John Karsseboom built this 2-ton, 16-ft. tall by 10-ft. wide hanging basket at his garden center in Tualatin, Ore.

it's saturated.

For folks who might not have room for a 2-ton basket, the creative businessman recently introduced the tiniest hanging basket. It fits in the palm of your hand, holds an air plant, and is perfect to hang from a rearview mirror or to add a bit of green to the tiniest office cubicle.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Garden Corner, 21550 SW 108th St., Tualatin, Ore. 97062 (ph 503 885-1934; www.thegardencorner.com).

FARM SHOW[®]



New 1959 Corvette pool table is made from real car parts and is fitted on top with a regulation size 4 1/2 by 9-ft., 3-piece slate top.

"Corvette" Pool Table

If you like old cars and shooting pool, you'll like this new 1959 Corvette pool table. It's made from real car parts and comes complete with working lights, real chrome bumpers, trim, whitewall tires, and chrome wheel covers with spinners. It's fitted on top with a regulation size 4 1/2 by 9-ft., 3-piece slate top.

Pool Tables, Inc., of Largo, Fla., also offers a 1965 Ford Mustang pool table and a Shelby GT-350.

The "cars" are shortened up a bit to fit the table but are trimmed with real auto parts. They're painted in original colors and clear-coated with real automotive clear coat. The

table is finished in an actual auto body shop to showroom quality.

The Mustang measures 119 in. long from bumper to nose and 71 in. wide and 35 in. high from the floor to the top of the rails. It weighs about 1,000 lbs. when assembled.

The Shelby GT-350 is molded directly from the body of a real 1965 GT 350.

Prices range from \$9,995 for the Ford Mustang pool table to \$100,000 for a top-of-the-line Shelby GT-350.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Car Pool Tables, Inc., P.O. Box 171, Largo, Fla. 33779 (ph 727 827-8268; www.carpooltables.com).

"Pop Can" Windmill

"I built it because I like to make one-of-a-kind things," says Randy Kurtz, who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a 30-ft. high ornamental windmill he built for his back yard. The windmill's "blades" are made from 8 bicycle wheel rims fitted with aluminum pop cans cut off at the top. Four of the wheels go clockwise and 4 go counterclockwise.

A 20-in. tall eagle with a 4-ft. wing span perches on the legs, as well as a birdhouse made out of metal.

"It makes quite a sight when the wind is blowing," says Randy. "We came up with the idea when we took down three windmills. We hoped to salvage enough parts to recreate an old fashioned windmill in our yard. However, the blades had been used for target practice and were shot so full of holes that we couldn't use them."

They ended up removing all the blades, then made a 4-ft. dia. metal ring and mounted the 8 bike wheel rims on it. Each wheel has 16 cans bolted onto it and spins on its own axle.



The 30-ft. high windmill's "blades" are made from 8 bicycle wheel rims fitted with aluminum pop cans cut off at the top.



Huge push lawn mower was powered by a Singer gas pump engine. "It was an awfully heavy machine and would have required a lot of effort to operate," says Robert Foster.

Huge Push Lawn Mower Powered By Gas Pump Engine

Robert Foster of Eden Prairie, Minn., recently sent us photos taken in 1913 of an unusual push lawn mower powered by a Singer gas pump engine. It was equipped with 2 flywheels. The engine chain-drove a shaft on front that operated the mower blades.

"I've never seen another machine like this anywhere," says Foster. "I don't know anything about it other than what you can see in the photo. There's nothing to indicate the mower brand. The mower has small castor wheels on front and large handlebars on back, so maybe it was designed to be horse-drawn."

"The photos belonged to my partner Dorothy Rockne, whose family were early settlers in the area. We were going through some of her old photos when this one jumped out. It shows Henry Vollandt standing in front of the Blooming Prairie, Minn., school at which he was employed as the custodian."

"We have another photo of my partner's

mother with the same mower so we were able to date the machine back to 1913.

"It was an awfully heavy machine and looks like it was custom made. It would have required a lot of effort to operate," says Foster. "The pump engine alone weighed 150 to 200 lbs. It wasn't self-propelled and rode on small wheels, so I'm sure it was hard to push around. The engine probably produced 1 1/2 to 2 hp."

"I was born in 1932 and remember as a child seeing a somewhat similar mower on our farm. It was put together by a neighbor who mounted a water pump on a plywood platform that was used to belt-drive sickle sections riveted onto a horizontal disc blade. It would cut weeds like you wouldn't believe but was dangerous to use."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Foster, 6760 Tartan Curve, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55346 (ph 952 934-9483).