

Radiator Keeps Greenhouse Warm

Marge Love keeps her greenhouse warm in subzero weather with a truck radiator. The radiator is plumbed into water lines that run to her wood-fired boiler. A household fan blows air through the radiator to heat the greenhouse, letting her grow vegetables, greens and rhubarb year round.

"The waterlines are buried 2 ft. deep and well-insulated," explains Love. "They run 335 ft. from the boiler near my house to the greenhouse. The water is hot enough that I can set the fan at its lowest setting. Even when it's zero outside, it's 74°F in the greenhouse."

Love says she didn't have to make any modifications to the radiator. She simply pulled it out of a large motor home and hooked up the water lines. An electric pump in the greenhouse pushes the water back to the boiler. When warm weather comes and

she wants to use the motor home, she'll drop the radiator back in place.

"I put air release valves on the pipes to prevent air locks in the radiator," says Love. "I used regular fittings and clamps from a hardware store."

One key to the simple system is the double walled plastic greenhouse itself. It's 16 ft. tall and 32 ft. long. The first 4 ft. of walls are 2-ft. diameter cedar trees. She uses a barn fan at the rear of the greenhouse when she needs to vent it.

"I built the trusses out of wood, stood them up and fastened them to the walls. Then I covered them with plastic inside and out," says Love. "They've handled 3 ft. of snow without a problem."

The beds in the greenhouse are 4 by 6-ft. wood bins filled with a mix of horse manure, soil, sand and compost. Old wash tubs, large



Marge Love keeps her greenhouse warm in subzero weather with a truck radiator, which is plumbed into water lines that run to a wood-fired boiler.

pots and more bins 2 ft. wide by 3 ft. high line the inside of the walls, while ultraviolet lights hang overhead.

"I start trees in one sidewall bed and grow all kinds of fruit and vegetables in the other beds," says Love. "I've even grown sweet

corn in a bed. It got so tall that it bent over against the roof."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marge Love, Box 41, Barriere, B.C. Canada V0E 1E0 (ph 250 672-9859; margelove@msn.com).

Warning Light Makes Road Travel Safer

You can make your tractor or combine more visible on the highway by mounting this new warning light system on it.

"It greatly increases visibility on the road to warn passing or oncoming traffic," says Kevin Mulder, K&M Mfg., Renville, Minn.

The Nite-Gard warning light consists of a telescoping metal bar with reflective tape on both sides, and a large amber light attached to the end that operates off the tractor or combine's battery. By loosening a knob, the arm can be extended from 36 to 52 in. The unit mounts on the machine's fender or cab door post using a breakaway mounting system.

Four different mounting brackets are available. Two of them are generic to fit virtually any tractor or combine, depending on whether you prefer a horizontal or vertical mount system. Specific mounting brackets are available for Deere 7000 and 8000 series

tractors, and for Deere 30 through 60 series tractors equipped with SoundGard cabs.

"It's especially valuable for tractors pulling implements, because you can bring the warning lights out to the widest point of the implement," says Mulder, adding that the unit meets all ANSI and ASAE S279.16 specifications.

The Nite-Gard comes preassembled for easy installation. It retails for \$325 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, K&M Mfg., 308 N.W. 2nd St., Renville, Minn. 56284 (ph 800 328-1752; Kevin@tractorseats.com).



Tractor or combine-mounted warning light consists of a telescoping metal bar with reflective tape on both sides, and a large amber light at one end.

He Turned His Riding Mower Into A Giant "Weed Eater"

When LaVier Schliefert has to mow rocky ground, he converts his riding mower into a giant "weed eater" by replacing the blades with heavy-duty weed eater strings.

Homemade metal adapters bolt to the original blade mounts. Each is fitted with 2 strings.

Schliefert came up with the idea after breaking numerous blades and bearings on the rocks.

"I often use my Deere 345 mower with 56-in. deck to mow rocky areas for neighbors. The weed eater strings go right over rocks without a problem. When I want to mow grass again I remove the adapters and bolt the blades back on."

He used parts of old lawn mower blades to make the adapters, welding on a circular metal ring and drilling pairs of holes through it for the strings to go through. He crimped a small piece of copper tubing onto the center of each line to keep it from pulling all the way through.

"I used 16-in. long plastic strings, the same ones found on DR's 2-wheeled weed eaters. Walmart sells similar strings so replacing the strings won't be a problem," says Schliefert. "The strings can't be used on heavy grass but they work great on small weeds up to 8 in. tall. If part of a string breaks off I just pull it out and put another one in."

Schliefert also made a free-swinging "weed eater" cutterhead that mounts on one side of the mower deck, allowing him to trim along fences, buildings and trees. The weed eater

runs off the tractor's 12-volt battery. "I flip a toggle switch mounted on the tractor's console to operate it," says Schliefert.

He used the head off a Black & Decker cordless handheld weed eater. The handle had been accidentally run over. It bolts to a hinged metal bracket that's attached to the deck and is free to pivot up or down. "When I need to use the weed eater I just reach down and grab an L-shaped metal rod that's attached to it. An overcenter spring holds the weed eater down until I'm ready to use it," says Schliefert.

He converted a Yardman VS5 2-wheeled, push-type leaf blower to mount on front of the riding mower. "I call it my riding leaf blower. I use it in the fall to blow leaves off to the side. Saves a lot of walking," says Schliefert.

A small gas engine powers the leaf blower. He removed the handle and vac cleaner bag from it and mounted a caster wheel on front. He also mounted angle iron brackets bolt on back that U-bolt onto the tractor.

"When I'm done using the leaf blower I pick up the front end and adjust the metal rod that attaches to the mounting bracket," says Schliefert.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LaVier Schliefert, 1125 S.E. 720, Deepwater, Mo. 64740 (ph 660 723-0072).

Homemade metal adapters, each fitted with 4 strings, bolt to the original blade mounts a free-swinging "weed eater" cutterhead mounts on one side of mower deck (at right).



LaVier Schliefert can convert his riding mower into a giant "weed eater" by replacing the blades with heavy-duty weed eater strings.

