

Paddle Wheel Speeds Sprout Production

Raising sprout-type fodder for livestock is a lot easier and more productive with this new fodder wheel that improves on the Australian stacked tray system. Inventor Roland Poirier offers a turnkey system built for easy maintenance and long life.

"The fodder wheel takes less labor and uses 1/5th the water of a flat tray system," says Poirier. "While every growing panel in a flat system requires its own hose and nozzle, ours has only two nozzles for 96 panels."

The fodder wheel takes up an average of just 12 ft. by 16 ft. and the flats are always at waist height for loading and unloading. The entire unit revolves only once in 30 min. and then stops in place for 2 hrs. before rotating again. As panels rotate past the nozzles, they are sprayed with nutrients and water.

The fodder wheel holds 96 separate 34 by 24-in. sections, each producing 50 lbs. of sprouts. All the parts are off the shelf and designed to last 20 to 25 years.

"The heavy-duty bearings should last 30 years in this use," says Poirier. "The platforms are made from plastic deck boards

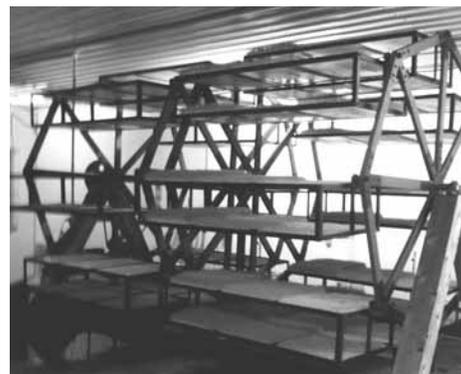
with a 50-year warranty, which is important in a high humidity situation like this."

Poirier says the fodder wheel system, as it is now set up, produces 16 flats (800 lbs.) of sprout fodder per day or 96 flats every six days. He has customers who are installing multiple units for larger herds. He says it can easily be downsized for smaller producers.

"A fodder wheel with all the bells and whistles, including an iPad with an application for virtual consulting, is priced at \$25,000," says Poirier. "In full production, it will replace 30 acres of productive ground, and that includes everything grown above ground and the root system, too."

Though the fodder wheel was designed for dairy herd use, Poirier says other livestock producers are showing interest. A trial with egg layers found four-day-old sprouts to be ideal for chickens.

"The hens went nuts," says Poirier. "They produced eggs for longer periods with harder shells at the end of the production period than on their standard diet. The egg yolk was also more yellow. Sprout fodder resulted in eggs that are everything the



Fodder wheel holds 96 separate 34 by 24-in. sections, each producing 50 lbs. of sprouts that make great livestock feed.

consumer wants."

You can see videos of the NutraFX Nutra-Culture Fodder Wheel at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nutra-Fix, 1171 Ambleside Dr., Suite #1507, Ottawa, Ont. K2B 8E1 Canada (ph 613 721-6053; www.nutra-fix.com/fodder.html) or Nutra-Fix, 11721 State Hwy. 37, Wadlington, N.Y. 13694 (ph 802 673-5780).

Reader Inquiry No. 120

Two Ways To Get Rid Of Carpenter Bees

Carpenter bees drill holes in wood where they nest and lay their eggs, which can be a real problem in any building with exposed wood. This new carpenter bee trap is designed to help eliminate the problem.

The holes in the Best Carpenter Bee Trap mimic the entrance to a carpenter bee nest, and the bees end up trapped in a plastic soda bottle. No bait or poison is needed.

The trap is designed to be placed on corners and peaks of buildings, preferably on the sunny side of the building where bee activity is the greatest. It consists of a small wooden house with angled sides and a flat top.

An empty 20-oz. plastic soda or water bottle is screwed onto the bottom of the trap. Once the bees get inside the trap they want to get out and fly toward the light inside the bottle. To do that they have to go through a little plastic funnel and then down into the bottle. When the bottle gets full of bees you unscrew the bottle, put a cap on it, and replace it with another bottle.

"It's the most effective carpenter bee trap on the market," says inventor Brian Blazer, Heflin, Ala. "The trap has a wire on top so if you want you can hang it from a rafter or the corner of a building."

In structures already badly infested with bees, Blazer offers a product called carpenter bee butter. "The bee butter will wipe the bees out due to the active ingredient pymethrin,

which is contained inside a clear grease. You inject the grease into the bee's entrance hole. Any bee that goes into or out of the hole will get grease on it and die.

"It works much better than spraying pymethrin onto the wood because it actually gets the pymethrin on the bee and not just on the wood. It also works better than using pymethrin dust, which has only an 18-day residual before it breaks down. The grease protects the pymethrin so it'll last more than a year."

One bee trap sells for \$19.95 (\$26 total with S&H included). Bee butter sells for \$12.95 (\$18 with S&H). One trap with bee butter sells for \$38 (S&H included). For an average-size house, Blazer recommends a set of 3 traps and one order of bee butter for \$79 (S&H included). Personal checks accepted and you can order online at www.carpenterbeesolutions.com.

When the first bees get trapped they die inside the trap. The dead bees release a pheromone that attracts more bees to the trap. The bees have a nesting season where the males hover and fight. The females drill holes and lay eggs in the wood, this time of year. The male bee has a yellow dot on his head and cannot sting. The female bee has a solid black head and can sting. So if you put your finger up in the hole she can sting you. Early in the year the bees looking for nest sites are easily trapped. Later when the bees are taking care of larva in the wood,



Carpenter bees enter through holes in small wooden house and soon head toward a plastic soda bottle below, where they become trapped.

they know where their babies are and take care of them. These bees are more difficult to trap. So this is where it is important to use the bee butter to get rid of the problem. The trap can also be effective in the fall when young bees are looking for a place to spend the winter. Although the bees are most noticeable when the males are fighting over territory, hovering and chasing each other. The bees use the holes throughout the year. The traps do catch bees whenever it is warm enough for them to be flying.

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