



Dave Kulzer built this 40-in. wide, skid loader-mounted brush cutter out of wood. Loader forks slide through a pair of slots cut into back of deck.



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All-Wood Brush Mower Built For \$125

"It was an economical way to put together a big mower for small brush and weeds," says Dave Kulzer, Albany, Minn., about the 40-in. wide brush cutter he built out of wood. He uses the wood mower on his mini skid loader.

He removed the engines and blades from two 6 1/2 hp push-type, 21-in. mulching mowers. He mounted the engines on a wood deck with a 2 by 6 frame covered by a 3/4-in. thick plywood top. The two offset Briggs & Stratton 6 1/2 hp engines mount on the deck and shaft-drive a pair of 21-in. blades. The loader forks slide through a pair of slots cut into the back of the deck and are kept in place by strips of wood screwed onto the deck's underside. A pair of small dolly wheels on front of the deck help keep it level.

"I use it to trim brush around the yard and to cut trails through the woods. It works great and cost only about \$125 to build," says Kulzer. "It'll cut brush up to 1 in. thick. The beauty is that I can lift the deck above tall grass and keep going without having to slow down. By using the skid loader I can mow without having to drive over the brush first, and the skid loader's 4-WD provides good traction.

"I built it because I needed to cut big patches of tall thistles on my property. I tried using a riding mower, but I couldn't raise it high enough without plugging up the deck. Also, it was hard on the mower. I wanted something right away, but I didn't want to spend \$3,000 on a small brush mower so I

decided to build my own using wood."

He went to Craigslist to buy the two junked-out mulch mowers for \$50 apiece. He removed the engines and blades, and then bought a pair of thick mower blades. He cut 8-in. dia. holes in the deck and fastened the engines onto the deck with 4 bolts, adding large flat washers on the bottom to keep the plywood from tearing out. He stacked 2 by 6's on back of the deck and also added one on top on front for more strength. The dolly wheels on front came off one of the mowers that he tore apart.

"I think it works as good as brush mowers that work off the skid loader's hydraulics, maybe better," says Kulzer. "A lot of skid loaders have weak hydraulics which causes

the mower to plug up a lot. My mini loader doesn't have high flow hydraulics, so using an engine on each blade gives my mower the power it needs.

"If you needed a wider cut you could add a third engine. By adding a hitch and a couple more wheels, you could build the mower to pull behind a 4-wheeler. The deck on my mower is open on front, but short lengths of chain could be added to keep debris from flying out."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Kulzer, 30216 Co. Rd. 41, Albany, Minn. 56307 (ph 320 845-2306).

Live Trap Designed To Catch Burrowing Critters

This new trap captures burrowing pests as they leave their tunnels. Just set one over the top of a burrow and wait for the animal to emerge.

"It works for armadillos, groundhogs, opossum, skunks, and even badgers. Any burrowing animal that can fit inside the trap," says Kelly Sheaffer, product manager, Safeguard Products. "It has a sliding back door for easy release of captured animals."

The 36-in. long, 11-in. wide and 12-in. high trap is fabricated with heavy gauge, corrosion resistant wire and welded steel rods. The twin compartment trap is designed with a bottomless entry area that fits over the burrow. A second compartment has a trap

door that's triggered as the animal enters searching for bait.

Sheaffer recommends using a variety of baits depending on the animal being trapped. Fresh produce like lettuce, peas and apples are suggested for woodchucks, while chicken entrails and fresh or canned fish are suggested for skunks.

The Universal Trap is available through wildlife control suppliers and other distributors. Prices range from \$79 to \$110.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Safeguard Products, P.O. Box 8, New Holland, Penn. 17557 (ph 717 354-4586; toll free 800 433-1819; www.safeguardproducts.com).



Universal trap captures burrowing pests as they leave their tunnels.

Chainsaw "Caddie" Great For Cleaning Brush

When Marvin Johnston watched his retired neighbors struggling to clear a pasture using a chainsaw, he knew there had to be a better way. So he designed and built the Chainsaw Caddie cutter.

"It provides a way to hold and maneuver a chainsaw close to the ground, without bending, stooping, or carrying the chainsaw," says Johnston. "It works great for cleaning up fence lines, thinning timber, and cutting trees of nearly any size. It can be used with multiple brands and sizes of chainsaws and provides a safe and efficient way to remove trees and brush. The main thing is that you don't have to get on your hands and knees to cut. Also, the operator is more than 5 ft. from the tip of the chainsaw bar, eliminating the risk of injury from kickback."

The patented 2-wheeled carrier is made out of steel tubing with a metal frame to hold the chainsaw at 3 different places. The saw's height can be adjusted by loosening a pair of bolts and moving the frame upward.

A throttle on the handle attaches by cable to the saw's trigger. "The saw is balanced on the wheels so well that it hardly takes any pressure to move it around," says Johnston. "Most of the time I keep the bar about 2 in. off the ground, although by bringing the handlebars down you can raise the bar up to almost 1 ft. off the ground."

He says the unit works great for cutting trees surrounded by limbs or brush where you can't even see the tree trunk. "You just push the saw in there and feel the tree with the saw, then pull the trigger and cut the tree down."

The Chainsaw Caddie can be ordered with either rubber or steel wheels, both 26 in. in dia. "The steel wheels push just as easy as the rubber wheels and won't go flat," notes Johnston.

At press time the exact production price for the Chainsaw Caddie had not been determined due to rising steel prices, but Johnston says he will offer initial units for



"Chainsaw Caddie" provides a way to hold and maneuver a chainsaw close to the ground, so you don't have to bend over, stoop or carry the chainsaw.

\$320 plus S&H through March 1st.

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