

## Garden Tractor Fitted With Small 10-In. Wheels

"I'm just 16 years old, and a few years ago I bought a tractor from my grandpa's neighbor for \$10 and have been working on it ever since," says Cameron Messinger, Hummelstown, Penn. "It had a waterlogged motor and a flat front tire. I used the good front tire on another lawn tractor, so when I got the motor running after an overhaul I needed 2 replacement front tires."

Instead of buying 2 new tires for upwards of \$30 apiece, Cameron went to Northern Tool and bought 10-in. low-speed wheels. "I spent \$16 for both wheels, and about \$10 for a dozen brass fender washers to use as spacers," he says. "The wheels slid right onto the spindles with no play. The wheels are narrower than normal tubeless mower tires, so I used the washers to space them out. I cotter pinned them on like the original tires, and they work great."

He offers a word of caution. "I wouldn't try this idea on a lawn tractor equipped with a deck, because the smaller wheels lower the tractor's front end a good bit and will mess up your cut. I use this tractor without



**Cameron Messinger went to Northern Tool and bought 10-in. low-speed wheels to mount on front of his garden tractor.**

the deck to pull small trailers, and it backs them up like it has power steering. I think the combination of better bearings in the wheels and a smaller surface area on the tires makes this a win-win."

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**Cal Miner made a high capacity bagger out of a large nylon bulk seed bag that's 4 ft. wide. Bag is supported by a platform made from plywood covered by aluminum.**

## "Seed Bag" Lawn Vac

Cal Miner, Willmar, Minn.: "I like my 2012 Deere X360 riding mower. Because of arthritis, I needed a mower with power steering and power lift, and the lowest-priced unit I could find was this model. It's also relatively quiet. Attachments for it mount easily with pins and clips.

"The mower came with a tow-behind lawn vac, but it used two 18-in. wide bags that weren't big enough for my needs. When the dealer couldn't sell me a large enough bagger, I made one out of a large nylon bulk seed bag that's 4 ft. wide. It can hold up to 100 lbs. of leaves and really saves time.

"The bag is supported by a platform made from plywood covered by aluminum. I cut a hole in the front of the bag and modified the vac's discharge chute to fit.

"I used 1 1/2-in. lightweight tubing to make a frame that supports the platform and bolted it to another frame that came with the mower's original bagging system.

"I also made a U-shaped, 3 by 4-ft. discharge hood that covers most of the top of the bag. The hood is covered on back and keeps big chunks of leaves from flying out of the bag.

"Beneath the hood I mounted a rectangular, 1/4-in. screen, which keeps most of the fine material directed rearward and also allows air to escape. If the screen ever plugs up I can just pull it out from under the hood.

"Both sides of the bag are fitted with 8-in. deep flaps at the top. To seal the bag I fold the flaps over against the sides of the hood, then attach bungee straps over the hood from one side to the other.

"To remove the bag I loosen the bungee straps and drop the flaps down. Then I back the mower up to a pair of ramps that lead up



**To unload the bag he backs his mower up to a pair of ramps that lead up to his 15-ft. trailer.**

to my 15-ft. trailer. It can hold up to 8 bags at a time to haul to our local composting site.

"I used to spend way more time emptying bags than I did loading them. But the big seed bags have more capacity than the 2 smaller bags I was using before, so now I can do my front yard in 20 min. and my whole yard in just an hour. The bags are made from nylon, so even when they're full they slide easily on the ground and up the ramps.

"I got the bags free from a local grain elevator, which had switched to using returnable totes. They had a whole semi truck load left over and couldn't find anyone to use them."

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## Corn Sheller Made From 5-Gal. Bucket

A young FARM SHOW reader caught our attention with his invention of a hand-cranked corn sheller built out of scrap material.

When Elvin Zimmerman, 15, saw a simple bucket corn sheller his cousin made, he was inspired to improve on the idea with a stand and motor.

He made the beater of his sheller with a 1/2-in. rod with two rows of bolts, with heads welded to the rod in a staggered pattern 3 in. apart. The bolts are about 1/2 in. away from the bucket wall. Zimmerman cut a piece of wood for a lid to mount on a wooden stand.

He cut a hole in the bottom of the bucket and stabilized it with wood and metal to support the rod. He purchased a belt and pulley and connected the rod to a motor off a water pump.

Zimmerman cut holes in the top side of the bucket to drop the corn in through a chute and at the bottom side to fall into a wooden box. Shelled corn falls through the screen bottom into a bucket.

"The hardest part was getting the cob to vibrate out the front," Zimmerman says. He solved the problem by running a wire from the rod to the screen bottom. It creates enough vibration to shoot the cob out the front.

He notes that the sheller is noisy and not very fast as he feeds it one ear at a time. But it works quite well.

"I really like to make things," Zimmerman says. And, he's learning to fix machinery with a part-time job working on diesel tractors.

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**Automatic corn sheller uses an electric motor to belt-drive beater inside bucket.**



**Ears are dropped in through hole in top side of bucket, and the shelled corn falls through a hole at bottom (above).**



**Bruce Riehl converted an old tilting snowmobile trailer into a lawn mower trailer that's easy to load without the mower deck binding up.**

## Converted Snowmobile Trailer

"I needed a lawn mower trailer that would be easy to load without the mower deck binding up, so I converted an old tilting snowmobile trailer," says Bruce Riehl, Stratford, Ontario.

He added a short tailgate on back and a steel hook on front of the trailer deck that latches onto the tongue. A heavy chain loops from under the front of the trailer deck and around the bottom of the tongue to keep the deck from tilting too far.

"When I'm ready to load, the deck will remain tilted and I simply drive the mower on. As I go forward I drive slowly so the trailer deck will tilt back to the horizontal position and the hook will lock without slamming."

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