



David Flaherty says his pickup-mounted leaf dumper has speeded up work for customers of his lawn maintenance business. An old pickup topper keeps leaves from blowing out.

Leaf Dumper Built To Fit Pickup Box

By Mark Newhall, Editor

David Flaherty stopped by our office the other day to show us his pickup-mounted leaf and grass hauler. He says it has greatly speeded up work for customers of his lawn maintenance business.

"I bought a small grain cart, removed the wagon running gear, and cut off the front end of the cart so it would fit in the back of my pickup," says Flaherty. "I attached it to a home-built hoist mounted in the bed of the truck. I bought a used cylinder that's powered by an electric hydraulic pump from Tractor Supply Company. It simply wires to the trucks' battery and to a switch in the cab.

"Then I fitted a swing dump gate on back of the box that opens up freely when the box is dumped.

"To keep leaves and grass from blowing out, I mounted an old pickup topper over the

top. I turned it around so the sliding window faces the back. A round portal fits into that window opening so we can blow leaves into the box from our tractors. I have a vacuum mounted on front of a trailer with a long hose so I can suck leaves out of the carriers on my mowers into the box. One of the windows on the side of the topper is covered with screening so air can escape.

"This dumper cost less than \$1,000. Commercial units would have run \$7,000 to \$8,000 and they would not have been as good as this rig. The topper comes off easily for hauling other materials and the entire box can be quickly unbolted and removed."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Flaherty, H&L Services, Lonsdale, Minn. (ph 612 227-8868).



He cut off part of a small grain cart and attached it to a home-built hoist mounted in the pickup bed. A swing dump gate on back opens up when cart is hoisted.



Hoist cylinder, powered by an electric hydraulic pump, is wired to pickup's battery and to a switch in the cab.



The Pro Hitch Caddy bolts onto the side of your pickup bed next to the tailgate, where it keeps receiver hitches handy.

Bolt-On Caddy Keeps Receiver Hitches Handy

"The Pro Hitch Caddy makes it easy to store and organize receiver hitches in your pickup bed. It bolts onto the side of the bed next to the tailgate, so it doesn't take up much space or get in the way of loading or unloading," says Dave Julian, Volga, S. Dak.

The 8-in. wide Caddy is 9 1/4 in. high. It's made from 1/8-in. thick, zinc-plated, powder-coated steel and has a pair of holes cut into it to hold 2 receiver hitches. The unit requires drilling four 1/4-in. dia. holes into the side of the bed.

"It keeps your receiver hitches from rolling around in the back of the pickup and ending up out of reach," says Julian. "One time I had to crawl forward on the bed floor to reach a hitch and accidentally put a drywall screw through my knee. That motivated me to build

a prototype of my Hitch Caddy, and an hour later I had it mounted on my pickup. Another factor is that more states are requiring that receiver hitches be removed when not in use."

The Pro Hitch Caddy is available for Ford, Chevrolet, GM, and Dodge pickups. It comes with all necessary bolts and nuts. The standard black powder-coated version sells for \$80 plus S&H. The unit can also be ordered in black gloss "high graphic" automotive paint and clearcoat with hydro-dipped graphics, which sells for \$160 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Julian, 21171 462nd Ave., Volga, S. Dak. 57071 (ph 605 695-2196; djdigger@live.com).



Peter Maitland uses a loader-mounted giant bucket to scoop up leaves in his yard. He built it by cutting up an old fiberglass boat.



Giant Bucket Cleans Up Leaves Fast

Peter Maitland makes quick work of leaf cleanup with a bucket he built out of an old boat.

"It was a 34-ft. houseboat built in the 1960's out of heavy fiberglass so it's strong," says Maitland. "It works great and it won't rot."

He cut the boat in half to make the floor and walls, then seamed the pieces together with 1/4-in. plate steel and bolted it to a plywood back to fit inside his compact tractor's bucket. Turnbuckles inside and outside support the

sides.

Once the leaves are gathered in a pile, he uses the bucket to scoop them up and dispose of them.

"I like doing things easy and simple," he says. "With this I can get about 10 times the load compared to the tractor bucket. It works great."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Maitland, 23 Cedarcrest Ave., Salem, Mass. 01970 (ph 978 745-3913; maitlandmountainfarm@gmail.com).

How To Reach Us

To submit a "Made It Myself" Story Idea, New Product, Shop Tip, "Best or Worst Buy", or other information, send a note along with photos, drawings and literature, if available. We'll get back to you later if we need more details. Send to: Editor, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575; email: editor@farmshow.com. You can also submit information at our website: www.farmshow.com).

To change your address, renew your subscription, take out a new subscription, order videos or books, or for other information regarding your subscription, contact: Circulation Department, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575; email: circulation@farmshow.com).