

Blower Keeps Road Edge Clean

Terry Jacob blows grass clippings off road edges before blading them with the township grader. The blower has so much power that he runs it at idle to keep from blowing away gravel.

"We've had a couple of wet springs and the grass gets extra tall before I get it mowed, leaving grass residue on the roads," says Jacob. "Even when it's dry, I end up with a considerable amount of residue on the road. The blower clears it away."

Jacob purchased the blower at an equipment auction. "It's a Crary Wind System with a 24 hp engine and a 6-in. blower fan," says Jacob. "We added mounts to the grader, but we can also use it on any flatbed. All we need is a forklift to move it."

The blower is positioned ahead of the grader's front wheels. Mounting brackets extend back to the grader blade's frame so Jacob controls the height of the blower with the grader's hydraulics. He plans to add a wireless remote to control all the blower's functions. This will allow him to adjust airflow on-the-go. Jacob, who takes great pride in his roadways (Mobile Magnet Collects Scrap Metal, Vol. 39, No. 3), says he has about \$2,000 invested in the project so far.

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Terry Jacob blows grass clippings off road edges before blading them with the township grader. Blower is positioned ahead of grader's front wheels.

"Hideaway" Pickup Step

These new "hideaway" tailgate steps make it easy to get in and out of any pickup bed, yet are never in the way when not in use.

Installation requires cutting a 2 by 3-in. hole into both sides of the tailgate and inserting a 2 1/2-in. wide aluminum tube. The steps fold out from the sides of an aluminum post that pulls out of the tailgate tube when needed. The step post pivots on the end of a bracket that slides freely inside the tailgate tube.

The operator grabs a nylon strap to pull the step post out.

The steps measure 8 1/2 in. wide. The distance between steps will vary depending on the pickup model.

"On 1/2-ton pickups there's 11 1/2 in. between steps," says Isaacson. "On 3/4 and 1-ton pickups, it's 12 1/2 in. We've made units for jacked-up pickups that have 13 1/2 in. between steps. The bottom step is closer to the ground than bumper-mounted units that have only one step. Also, you can grab onto the side of the pickup to help yourself up."

"Dream Steps won't work on Ford pickups equipped with a camera on back. We supply a jig or template for cutting into the tailgate."

"Dream Steps" sell for \$285 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Myron Isaacson, Inc., 71 9th St., Lafayette, Minn. 56054 (ph 888 228-8270; isaacsonsalesandservice@gmail.com).



"Hideaway" tailgate steps fold out from the sides of an aluminum post, which pulls out of a tailgate tube when needed.



Operator grabs a nylon strap to pull step post out.



When the moldboards and shins wore out on his IH 2-bottom plow, Wayne Beggs laid old IH moldboards and shins on top of them, cut them to fit, and welded them on.

Cheap Fix For A Moldboard Plow

Wayne Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of how he fixed up an old 1970's IH 2-bottom moldboard plow "on the cheap".

"The moldboards and shins were worn down badly," says Beggs. "I already had some old IH moldboards and shins so I laid them on top of the worn out ones, then cut

them to fit and welded them on. It allowed me to get more use out of the plow without having to buy new parts.

"The guides were built up with an old shear and a grader blade."

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She Tested Homemade Weed Killer

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

After seeing a "natural" weed killer recipe several times on the internet, I finally decided to mix up a small batch of vinegar, Dawn dish soap and salt to spray on weeds along my garden fence.

I waited until 10 a.m. - after the dew dried off - and sprayed a few weeds, including lambsquarter, ragweed and quackgrass.

As luck would have it, I picked the first 90-degree day of the year. By evening the weeds were withered and brown, though the quackgrass still showed a little life. I doused it again the next morning, and that finished it off. As promised all the weeds were killed.

There is science behind the ingredients. Vinegar has acetic acid, a desiccant that draws moisture from the leaves. Salt is also a moisture-sucking desiccant. Soap helps leaves absorb the spray and break down the waxy surface on some leaves. The shiny look soap leaves also makes it easier to know where you have sprayed.

So is it a good idea? I think it's ideal in places where you don't want anything to grow, such as the cracks in a sidewalk or driveway or maybe around a foundation. I'm not sold on using it in my garden because it'll also kill vegetables and flowers if it's sprayed on them.



BEFORE

Dee Goerge mixed up a small batch of vinegar, Dawn dish soap and salt to spray on weeds along her garden fence. Photos show the before and after results.



AFTER

The recipe I followed came from www.thriftycouple.com. I mixed 2 cups vinegar (5 percent distilled white), 1 tablespoon table salt and 2 tablespoons Dawn (original blue).



David Simpler wanted a 3-pt. mounted mower deck for his Satoh tractor so he converted a Kubota belly-mounted deck, turning the deck's gearbox 180 degrees and adapting the 3-pt. lifting mechanism from a one-row cultivator.

Belly-Mounted Mower Deck Converted To 3-Pt. Model

David Simpler wanted a 3-pt. mounted mower deck for his Satoh tractor equipped with a 3-cyl., 13 hp engine. The Elkton, Md., man already had a Kubota 60-in. belly-mounted deck, but the pto shaft turned in the opposite direction as the tractor pto.

To solve the problem he turned the deck's gearbox 180 degrees, then made a new pto shaft by taking one off an old bush hog mower. He kept the yoke and U-joint from the mower's original pto shaft and made adapters for them. He also bolted the 3-pt. lifting mechanism from a one-row cultivator

to the caster wheel supporting frame on top of the deck.

"The conversion turned it into a great, economical finish mower," says Simpler. "I use it to cut grass for a local hunting club that has a big lawn. The deck's caster wheels and anti scalping rollers keep the lawn looking really nice."

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