

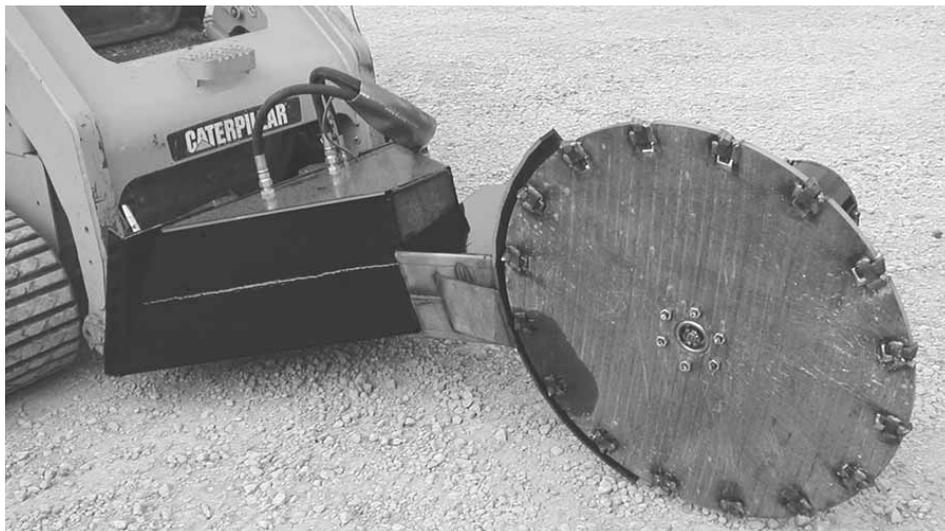
## Rotary Tree And Brush Saw

About nine years ago, Leroy Hicks, owner of Hicks Fabrication, Berryton, Kansas, designed a hydraulically powered rotary tree saw that fits skid steer loaders or on three-point hitches.

He says most other brush and tree cutters work by pushing a triangular serrated cutting blade through the trunk. The blade on Hicks' rotary saw is made from 1/2 in. steel plate, cut into a 28 in. diameter circle. Rather than having teeth cut into the blade, Hicks cut 12 equally spaced notches around the outer edge of the steel plate where he mounted replaceable carbide steel cutting teeth. Because of the way the saw is made, individual teeth can be replaced as needed.

He says the teeth have a long lifetime. "Custom operators who use their saws heavily are replacing them every three or four months, but most people replace them less than once a year," he says.

A hydraulic motor, requiring a minimum flow rate of 15 gal. per minute, turns the blade. The higher the capacity of the hydraulic system, the faster the saw works, up to a



Hydraulically-powered rotary tree saw fits skid loaders or can be 3-pt. mounted.

maximum of 40 gal. per minute at 2,500 psi.

Hicks built the cutter to fit the mounting brackets on most skid steer loaders. Or, with a hydroslide adapter, it can mount on a tractor's 3-pt. hitch.

"It cuts faster than most of the push-type cutters I've seen," he says. "It will cut through a 12 in. tree in one pass. I've cut trees with trunk diameters up to 3 ft. And

it will cut through soil and even rocks in order to cut trees off below the soil surface. With this cutter blade, once you've cut off the tree, you can angle the blade and grind the stump out with it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leroy Hicks, Hicks Fabrication, 4749 SE 61st, Berryton, Kan. 66409 (ph 785 231-7593).

**Reader Inquiry No. 172**



Pallets are used together at right angles.

## Free-Standing Pallet Fence

Karen Biondo of Vashon Island, Wash., used screwed-together pallets to build a solid fence for her pigs and goats. The pallets lay on their edges in a straight line, with pallets placed crossways between them to help stabilize the fence. All the pallets are screwed and bolted together.

"It eliminates the need to dig holes and install posts," she says. "I get the pallets free locally. Also, because of the cross pieces the animals don't have a straight line to scratch themselves on and wreck the fence."

Even though she lives in a high rainfall area, Biondo says the 5-year-old fence is still solid and shows little signs of rot.



Water-driven, self-cleaning screen is designed to work in water as shallow as 4 in.

## Self-Cleaning Shallow Water Screen

Anyone who depends on surface water for irrigation will be interested in this self-cleaning screen that's designed to work in water as shallow as 4 inches.

"It draws water that's only 2 inches below the surface, which is usually the cleanest water. There's nothing else on the market that can pump out of such shallow water and also clean itself at the same time," says inventor Bob Wietharn.

The Riverscreen floats on four pontoons and draws water from more than 35 sq. feet of screening area. Water is delivered through a pipe available in 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12 inch diameter with 150 gpm to 4,000 gpm capacity. A screened rotating drum is supported by an aluminum frame that mounts

on the pontoons. Flowing water moves past a series of paddles, which force the drum to rotate and self-clean via a stainless steel mesh screen. As the screen rotates it is cleaned by a series of jets.

An optional electric drive can be added for use in extreme conditions such as manure lagoons. Also optional is a galvanized lift boom that lets one person quickly swing out and gently lower the Riverscreen to the water surface.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Riverscreen Inc., 1925 Kiowa Road, Clay Center, KS 67432 (ph 785-632-5452; e-mail: Jessica@riverscreen.com; website: www.riverscreen.com).

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