



David Hanscel equipped his Cub Cadet garden tractor with a “tilt back” cab that can be quickly removed for summer use.

“Tilt Back” Cub Cadet Cab

David Hanscel, Marysville, Ohio, wanted to equip his Cub Cadet 1641 garden tractor with a cab that could be quickly removed for summer use.

The “tilt back” cab he built measures 48 in. long by 39 in. wide. It has doors on either side that come off.

“I use the tractor with a front-mounted snowblower and blade during winter to remove snow from about 15 local senior citizens’ driveways and neighbors, and to mow grass during summer,” says Hanscel. “The ‘tilt back’ design saves time because I can quickly drop the cab back out of the way onto a wheeled cart and then store it in my shop.”

The rear part of the cab attaches to the tractor with a 30-in. long, 3-in. wide door hinge attached to a steel mounting plate on back of the tractor. “I unhook the cab from the front, then roll it over backward onto the cart. It takes only about 5 to 10 min. to install or remove the cab,” says Hanscel.

He used 1 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipe to build the cab’s frame and covered it with 1/2-in. thick plywood. All wiring for the cab’s lights runs through the pipe.

“I have 2 LED headlights mounted on top of the cab, along with a pair of yellow LED strobe lights,” says Hanscel. “On back are 2 LED yellow strobe lights, 2 LED red strobe lights, a light bar, and a backup light. Also, there are 3 LED running lights on each side.”

A homemade control panel equipped with toggle switches mounts inside the cab and is used to control the lights, as well as the chute and deflector on the snowblower and the blade.

The front part of the cab is held in place on both sides by a pair of 10-in. high, 1/2-in. dia. vertical steel rods attached to metal brackets that bolt onto the tractor’s foot steps. The rods are fitted with washers and stop collars that

extend up inside the pipe frame as the cab is tilted down. “The washers are the exact same size as the pipe, which keeps the cab solidly in place,” says Hanscel.

A pair of nylon straps, one on each side, are bolted on inside the cab about 8 in. from the bottom. The straps run down around the vertical rods and back up to couplers.

The door hinge that the cab pivots on was purchased online at www.e-trailer.com. “I needed a 30-in. hinge, but the next closest size I could buy was 5 ft. long so I cut it down,” says Hanscel.

He drilled 2 holes into the bottom half of the hinge, then bolted it to a length of angle iron that’s bolted to the mounting plate on back of the tractor. The upper half of the hinge bolts to the cab.

To remove the cab from the tractor, Hanscel removes the vertical metal rods and unhooks the straps, then tips the cab backward and onto the cart. To put the cab back on he reattaches the rods, then tips the cab forward and straps it down.

He used 2 by 4’s to make the cart and covered the top with furniture moving pads. “The pad-covered wood surface keeps the cab from getting scratched up,” says Hanscel.

The cab is fitted with 20-mil vinyl windows on all sides, except for the front window which is made of Lexan.

He made the control panel using plywood on back and metal on front. He drilled holes through the metal to mount the switches and then bolted the panel to the dash.

Hanscel also welded a 2-in. receiver hitch and drawbar onto the mounting plate. “The receiver hitch is handy to move my landscape trailer around,” he notes.

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“I can quickly drop the cab back out of the way onto a wheeled cart to store it in my shop,” he says.



Craig Spierling uses an upside down 5-gal. pail to provide weather protection for an electric fencer. Bucket slides up and down a metal T-post. Photo at left shows pail lifted.

Clever Way To Protect Fencer

When Craig Spierling needed weather protection for an electric fencer, he decided to use a 5-gal. bucket that slides up and down a metal T-post.

“I’ve used the pail to cover my fencer for the past 10 years, and it has worked well,” says Spierling. “It’s weatherproof and livestock proof.”

To hang the fencer unit and support the battery, Spierling welded a steel plate to a T-post. The plate had to be large enough to hold the battery and a vertical leg with at least 2 in. of space between the leg and the post.

“The leg is 1-in. square tubing welded to the plate with a small steel plate welded at the top,” says Spierling. “There are different size fencers, but they all are designed to hang.

The leg and plate are sized to hang my fencer above the battery.”

Keeping 2 in. of space between the leg and the post leaves ample room of the 5-gal. pail fencer cover. To make it easy to pop on and off, Spierling drilled holes in the pail and used twist ties to attach the pail to a short length of aluminum tubing. The tubing is slightly larger in diameter than the post.

“The pail sits on the stand with the battery and fencer inside,” says Spierling. “If I need to check the battery or fencer, the pail slides right off.”

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“Tire chain” walkway was made by hooking old tire chains together end-to-end, then placing them in a shoveled-out path.

“Tire Chain” Walkway

“With winter coming on I thought I’d share this idea with your readers,” says Chuck Hampe of Berkeley Springs, W. Va. “It seems like everything in West Virginia is on a hill, so in winter it gets slippery. To help keep my wife and myself upright when walking to the shed, I made a ‘chain path’.

“After shoveling out snow to make a path, I hooked up some old tire chains end-to-end and then placed them in the path. The chain

sinks into the snow a little, and the sun heats the chain and melts the snow around it just enough to keep it in place. The next time it snows I just clean the chain off. Whenever there are long periods without sunshine I use a small torch to heat the chain.”

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