

controls virtually all blights, especially powdery mildews, stopping them even after they have started.

"Don't buy baking powder in the store. Punch in www.nuts.com (or Google baking powder) for large quantities at low prices.

"Spray the baking powder solution and watch your squash and tomatoes grow blight free till frost does them in. Add a tablespoon of sea emulsion for all the fertility you will need for a successful organic harvest."

Dale and Charlene Olsen, Strum, Wis.: "My wife and I bought a used GE refrigerator in 1956 for our first apartment. We moved to Illinois where we lived for 31 years and then moved back to Wisconsin, bringing the refrigerator with us. It still works perfect and keeps our food and beverages cold at the least cold setting. We keep this refrigerator in our basement for extra runs all year long."

David Ziegler, Manchester, Mo.: David's happy with his 2014 Harbor Freight 10-ton, hand-pumped log splitter. "We don't heat our home with wood, but we do like to see a nice fire going in our fireplace. This log splitter makes splitting wood a lot easier. I wish we had bought it years ago."

Leonard Jankowski, Loretto, Minn.: "The first four years after I bought my Chinese-built Trojan tractor, it stayed with the mechanic most of the time. Wiring burned off and killed the engine, and the tractor's

"I ended up attaching an American-made hydraulic pump to the tractor's front pto."

hydraulic pump disintegrated. Then both the distributor and manufacturer went out of business. I ended up attaching an American-made hydraulic pump to the tractor's front pto, and now it seems to be working alright."

Jack Zielsdorf, Grand Coulee, Wash.: "A friend of mine told me that if you want to cure a sore throat, put a drop of Oregon oil on your finger and apply it to the roof of your mouth. So the next time I had a sore throat I tried this idea, and it worked."

"My Harbor Freight battery charger never worked right from the start."

Abel Russell, Quarryville, Penn.: Abel likes his Tingley Ultra-Lightweight EVA knee boots (www.tingleyrubber.com; ph 800 631-5498). "I think I could walk all the way to California in these boots. I've used them for almost two years with no leaks or splits and I haven't been easy on them, either. Muck-type boots just don't last at all. These boots weigh no more than sneakers and conform wonderfully to my feet, as they're made from the same material that's found on Croc or clog-type shoes. The only problem is they don't keep my feet super warm in below freezing temperatures."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists Powerfields electric poultry netting. "The fence poles that come with it are flimsy and worthless so no matter how well you set them, the net's weight causes the poles to sag so much that they become useless. Quality electric netting that doesn't cost any more is available from Premier (www.premier1supplies.com; ph 800 282-6631).

Paul Miller, Gardiner, Mont.: "About 1 1/2 years ago I bought a Stanley 500-amp battery jump-starter with air compressor. Part of my decision was based on a good American name product. However, the compressor quit working after I used it to inflate just five tires.

"I called the company but they said the

unit was out of warranty and that they don't sell repair parts. Then I took another look at the machine and discovered that it's made in China. No more Stanley products for me."

Will Runyan, Avoca, Neb.: "The battery on my 2012 Black & Decker cordless drill lost power prematurely, even when I wasn't using the drill hard. Then I bought a Black and Decker corded drill, and it worked okay until the drive gear on it shattered while I was trying to mix paint."

David Seay, Italy, Texas: David's happy with his Huskee 22-ton log splitter. "I only use it to put up about five cords per year, but I've never had a problem. It tilts down so I can roll big chunks of wood onto it fast."

"My 2014 Echo chainsaw equipped with a 14-in. bar works great as a one-handed trimming saw."

He's not happy with his 2014 Cub Cadet LTX1050 riding mower. "It's the worst I've ever owned. There have been numerous problems with the drive belt, pulley, idler bearing, and starter and the deck tends to plug up with grass. Also, sheet metal screws protrude from the deck and collect grass, which makes digging out the grass an even harder job."

Roger Walter, Johnston, S.C.: Roger nominates his 2007 Bad Boy 60-in. zero turn riding mower as his "best buy." "It's well-built with a sturdy deck and great steering system, and everything on it is easy to service."

"My 1996 Ford F-250 4-WD extended cab pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine has more than 335,000 miles on it, but it's still going strong."

Tom Lassen, Gilmer, Texas: "I purchased two McCulloch 700 chainsaws in 1977 - one with a bar and the other with a bow. I used both saws to cut firewood and sold a lot of cords. Both saws are still in working



condition today, but now I'm too old to operate them. The key to a long life for a chainsaw is using the right fuel-to-oil mixture and performing regular maintenance. I know this for a fact because in my spare time I work on chainsaws, weed eaters, and lawn mowers."

Brad Jones, Tamassee, S.C.: "We have a serious deer problem so I had high hopes that the 4 Nite Guard Solar lights I bought would deter deer as advertised. However, no matter where I placed the lights, within one to two days the ground around them was surrounded by deer hoof prints. I had more deer and more problems than ever. After unsuccessfully trying these units out in various locations for several weeks, I had to throw them away rather than continue to attract more and more deer."

Gary Knock, Davis, S. Dak.: "My 2005 Volkswagen Jetta diesel has about 400,000 miles on it but still has the original brakes, clutch, fuel injectors, glow plugs, starter, and alternator. This car has been to the top of Pikes Peak, Mount Evans, Trail Ridge Road, Beartooth Pass and Going to the Sun highway. At one time it went more than 80,000 consecutive miles averaging more than 50 mpg with every refill. The car has never failed to start and is still in nice condition."

"Smartpuller" Yanks Brush Out By The Roots

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Buckthorn and other invasive shrubs don't stand a chance against Pierre Ménard's Smartpuller. With its sharpened articulating jaws, it grabs and pulls brush out, roots and all.

"The more you pull, the more it bites into the trunk," says Ménard. "It is all that is needed to pull buckthorn out with its roots."

After seeing the Smartpuller at work on Ménard's Youtube video, FARM SHOW decided to order one. It comes in 2 pieces - a base and a handle - that you attach to a 2 by 4 with 4 bolts.

This writer has tried numerous methods of removing buckthorn and other small saplings. The Smartpuller is the best yet, hands down.

Other similar tools often bite into the slippery bark, but not the wood itself. The articulated jaws on the Smartpuller, with their "very" sharp teeth, clamp through the bark, deep into the woody fibers. There is no slippage here.

The base of the Smartpuller is rounded, so it provides a natural rocking action, following the surface of the ground instead of digging into it.

The longer the shaft, the greater the leverage you have. I went with a 6-ft. length, as it gave me significant leverage, but wasn't too ungainly when moving around in the woods or from one site to another.

Ménard is being honest when he describes the Smartpuller as "not very nice looking." It's also heavy. He built it to do a tough job, and the rugged, unpainted steel is well suited. It is also a little awkward when first setting it up alongside a trunk. The base goes to one side and the handle around the other side.

All is forgiven when the trunk and roots slide smoothly out of the dirt. Stem diameter that can be removed depends on the soil conditions and the root system. It easily

Harrell Cummings, Fairmont, N.C.: "Over the years I've found that Homelite makes the best chainsaws and trimmers. I own three Homelite saws dating to 1976, 1982, and 1994 and all of them are still going strong. Bars, chains and spark plugs have been replaced, but otherwise I've never had to turn a wrench on any of them. I swear by the Homelite brand."

Ken Billingsley, Gladwin, Mich.: "It's one of the best machines I've ever owned," says Ken about his 1986 Deere 600 5-wheel ATV. "I use it every day to haul firewood, pull a log splitter, haul yard waste, and pull logs out of swampy areas using a long chain. Over the years all I've had to replace were a drive belt, spark plug and starter."

John Looman, Lenoir, N.C.: John's satisfied with his 2014 Cub Cadet RZT-S zero turn riding mower equipped with a steering wheel and 48-in. deck. "This machine has reduced my total mowing time by one third over my front engine 1997 Cub Cadet, and almost no trimming is needed afterward. Also, the mower deck does a fair job of blowing leaves just as it is without needing any special attachments."

Harold Schudlach, Montello, Wis.: "I like my Mustang 2040 skid loader equipped with a Yamaha diesel engine. It has had a few electrical problems, but the engine always starts even in the coldest weather. It has more than 3,000 hours on it but still runs smooth."

"The roller on my 2009 AGCO discbine broke while I was cutting hay, and a spring



Brush puller consists of two parts that attach to a 2 by 4 with 4 bolts.



Jaws on puller grab tightly onto stem as the puller is rocked back, pulling brush out by the roots.

handled 1 to 2-in. dia. and larger stems of multiple woody species.

A friend recently broke a wrist, falling back when a shrub he was pulling by hand suddenly gave way. The \$60 (plus shipping) cost of the Smartpuller would have looked cheap in comparison to the price he paid in pain and money.

You can see a video of the Smartpuller in action at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pierre Ménard, 4440 Chemin Robinson, Cookshire-Eaton, Que. Canada JOB 1M0 (ph 819 829-2501; vispieux@gmail.com; www.vispieux.com).

that holds the header up also broke. The company failed to stand behind the machine even though I had used it for only one season."

Michael Pika, Hurt, Va.: Michael's impressed with a simple wire splicer made by Leon Sowers of Murdock, Kansas that was previously featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 38, No. 6) (ph 620 243-4497; Lcsfarms@yahoo.com). "I found this tool easy to use and a great way to splice fence wire. I plan to keep one in each of my farm trucks. It's a great tool to have on hand."

Henry Yoder, Lakeview, Mich.: "I like my Speeco T-post puller (www.speeco.com; ph 800 525-8322). It lets me pull T-posts and move fences from one area to another in much less time. I can also use it to pull wooden posts by hooking a small chain onto the puller. It sells for less than \$50 at Tractor Supply stores. I absolutely love it."

Dewey Crowder, New Richmond, Ohio: Dewey likes his 2015 DR 6.25 Premier walk-behind trimmer-mower equipped with an electric start Briggs & Stratton engine. "When we bought this mower my wife and I were both 84 years old, so electric start was an absolute necessity."

Dale Brown, Clinton, Ark.: "My BatteryMinder 1500 charger-maintainer-desulphator system works great (www.northerntool.com). It restores weak vehicle batteries in just a few days.

"My Fi-Shock electric fence charger quit

Continued on next page