



“Picker-upper” has a metal pan fastened to a hinge at the bottom. Whitmoyer pushes apples into pan with one foot and then pulls on handle to dump into a bucket.



## “Made-It-Myself” Picker-Upper

“I’ve been using this simple device for a couple of years to pick up fallen apples and walnuts in my yard,” says Phil Whitmoyer, Leesport, Penn. “You can also use it to pick up debris around the yard without bending over.”

The device consists of a 3-ft. length of hardwood flooring with a 6 by 10-in. metal “dust pan” fastened to a hinge at the bottom. A long metal strap runs through a pair of

I-bolts down to a wood block above the pan. “I push apples into the pan with one foot and then lift the pan up over a bucket and pull on the handle to dump it,” says Whitmoyer. “It didn’t cost a penny to make because I found everything I needed in my scrap pile.”

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Boom on loader-mounted tree shear is fitted with a 20-in. blade that’s belt-driven by a hydraulic motor.

## Loader-Mounted Tree Shear

“I used the legs off an old 2-ton feed bin to make a boom that’s fitted with a 20-in. blade off an old walk-behind brush saw. It lets me prune tree limbs up to 20 ft. off the ground,” says 83-year-old Linus Schraner of Derby, Ind.

Schraner mounts the tree shear on his Allis Chalmers WD tractor. Hoses run from an 11 1/2 gpm hydraulic pump mounted on the tractor’s pto up to a hydraulic motor located near the top of the boom. The motor belt-drives a mandrel that Schraner fashioned from the rear axle of an old car.

The boom clamps onto a steel frame that attaches to the loader arms and fits over a bale spear. A big hydraulic cylinder is used to tilt the boom up or down.

Schraner bolted the two 8-ft. long feed bin legs together, one turned over on top of the other. He added another 2-ft. section from another leg for added length. “By pulling a pin from the bracket on the cylinder, I can quickly remove the boom and use the bale spear to haul bales,” says Schraner.

He mounted a valve on the tractor’s right fender to operate the tree shear.

The saw’s V-belt pulleys provide extra speed, with an 11-in. pulley connected to the motor driving a 4-in. pulley on the saw

mandrel. “I don’t have to run the tractor’s engine very fast in order to get a lot of speed on the saw,” he says.

Schraner used the saw for the first time last summer to cut overhanging branches along the edges of a field and says it worked better than he expected. “It works fast enough that I was able to make a mess pretty quickly cutting limbs off. I was able to cut up to 6-in. dia. limbs in a single cut. I have a good view, and I can work in the comfort and safety of a tractor seat instead of having to climb up a ladder or stand in a loader bucket to reach overhanging branches.

“The WD tractor is equipped with a hand clutch which works great with the saw, because I can disengage the clutch and the pto will continue to operate, which makes the saw easy to control.”

Schraner mounted a plexiglass shield in front of the steering wheel to keep wood chips from flying back on him. The shield is clamped to a pair of thinwall metal pipes that slip over smaller 10-in. long pipes that bolt onto the tractor’s frame.

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## Simple Door Steps For Pickup Topper

After the lift cylinders on the rear door on his pickup topper failed, Jeff Hoard came up with a simple fix using pvc pipe.

“After it crashed down on my wife’s head for the third time, I figured I needed something better than a board to prop it open,” says Hoard.

His solution was to remove the cylinders and cut a few feet of 1/2-in. pvc pipe. He heated the pipe ends with a hand torch and flattened each end 90 degrees from the other.

“I drilled a hole on one end to match the stud on the pickup topper door and cut a fairly deep notch in the center of the other end,” says Hoard. “With the one end attached to the stud, the notch slides into the latch catch for the tailgate.”

Hoard repeated the process on the other side of the pickup topper. To prop the door open, Hoard raises one end and slips the notch into place and then does the same on the other end.

“The door flexes enough that the pvc pipe stays in place on one side as the other is being raised,” he says. “When we are ready to close the door, we lift both pvc pipes out of the latch catches and lower the door. The pvc arms hang inside and out of the way.”

Hoard notes that the entire process is as easy as replacing the cylinders, but cost him nothing as the pvc pipes were in his scrap pile.

Hoard shares his creative scrounging ideas



When the rear door lift cylinders on his pickup topper failed, Jeff Hoard replaced them with pieces of pvc pipe. Notch cut into lower end of pipe slides into tailgate’s latch catch.



and projects on his DVD titled Hillbilly Heaven, which is available on his website.

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## Small-Scale Growers Like His Hand-Held Seed Harvester

When John Morgan made his first hand-held seed harvester in 1991 for his prairie grass seed business, he had no idea the design would catch on with a variety of other growers decades later. By the time the article about his invention appeared in FARM SHOW 20 years ago (Vol. 22, Issue 5), he had started making them for other entrepreneurs interested in gathering grass and wildflower seed on small plots or in remote areas.

“Now there’s a lot of interest from people growing wheat, soybeans and heritage or organic grains. It’s something I never really expected; it’s gratifying to see,” Morgan says.

The harvester has some minor changes but is the same basic stripper design. It’s powered by a Tanaka heavy-duty commercial line trimmer engineered to operate parallel to the ground. It spins an 18-in. reel with a brush with fingers at a high speed to grab seeds and throw them into a hopper bag.

The harvester comes with three interchangeable reel sizes - light, medium and heavy-duty - to accommodate different types of seed.

“For example, black-eyed Susan and Echinacea have heavy round seed heads. The heavy-duty reel cuts them off and throws everything into the hopper to be screened later,” Morgan says.

The medium reel works well for heritage grains and other seeds.

“We are a native prairie restoration company, and this gives us a tool to be efficient at collecting seed on a small scale,” he adds.

He notes that the hand-held seed harvester can collect black-eyed Susan seeds from a 20 by 4-ft. nursery plot in 10 min. compared to the 8 hrs. it takes when harvesting by hand. The harvester is small enough to store in a vehicle and carry to remote areas.

The harvesters are made with steel and heavy-duty nylon for the screen and hopper bag. They sell for \$2,250 U.S. (\$2,495 Canadian) plus shipping and come with a 1-year warranty.



Hand-held seed harvester is powered by a heavy-duty line trimmer that operates parallel to the ground. It spins an 18-in. reel that grabs seeds and throws them into a hopper bag.



Morgan also sells other products through his Prairie Habitats business website, where a video shows the harvester in action.

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