

Giant "Clipper" Chops Down Tall-Growing Weeds

Here's a big-time way to chop down weeds growing above the crop. The BTT Weed Clipper is fitted with hydraulic-driven rotary blades that work at high travel speeds across the machine's 50-ft. width.

Driven by pto at 1,000 rpm's, the big rig requires 2,500 psi hydraulic pressure. In transport, the machine folds down to 15 ft. It's fitted with 15-in. wheels.

The Weed Clipper is designed for big organic or conventional farms, as well as custom operators. It was developed for use on the farm of the owner of Bourgault Tillage Tools in Canada. After 4 years of testing, it's now ready for market.

It can be used to trim weeds in crops from 4 to 45 in. tall. The blades clip and mulch weeds, working at 5 mph in medium and heavy weed infestations and faster in lighter weeds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bourgault Tillage Tools, Box 310, 200-5th Ave. S., St. Brieux, Sask. Canada S0K 3V0 (ph 800 878-7714; www.weedclipper.com).



Bourgault's BTT Weed Clipper is designed to chop down weeds growing above the crop. It's fitted with hydraulic-driven rotary blades that work at high travel speeds.

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Harold M. Johnson
Founder

Editor/Publisher

Mark Newhall (mark@farmshow.com)

Senior Editor

Bill Gergen (bill@farmshow.com)

Contributing Editors

Jim Ruen (edgcom@acegroup.cc)

Dee Goerge (dee_goerge@yahoo.com)

Lorn Manthey (redoakridge@mac.com)

Office Manager

Anne Lash (anne@farmshow.com)

Circulation (circulation@farmshow.com)

Shelly Mende, Mary Lunde

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Plastic Barrels Make Handy Calf Feeders

Empty 15-gal. barrels make great portable calf feeders, says Tom Cook of Pewamo, Mich. With nearly 300 dairy cows, he had plenty of empty teat dip and soap barrels on hand.

He cuts plastic barrels in half lengthwise with a circular saw and secures them together with 1-in. long, 1/4-in. bolts with big flat washers. Five barrels cut in half bolted together creates about 25 ft. of trough to fill with supplemental grain for his calves on pasture. Handles on each end make it easy to move them or dump water when it rains.

"I put 85 calves on pasture starting around June 1 and have 15 acres between three paddocks," Cook says. "Every day we pull it forward about 100 ft. to spread the manure and reduce overgrazing in one spot."

The barrel feeders are light and easy to



Cook cuts plastic barrels in half lengthwise and bolts them together to make calf feeders.

handle, yet very durable.

"I've been using it for 15 years and have only replaced about half a dozen barrel halves," Cook says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cook Dairy, 11454 Parks Rd., Pewamo, Mich. 48873 (ph 517 449-0322; cookdairyfarmer@gmail.com).

Recycled Garage Opener Controls Yard Light

You can control remote lights with an old garage door opener. The timer built into the opener shuts off lights automatically for Andy Kozlowski.

"I have a pole barn located in trees about 125 ft. from the house and needed a way to turn on the lights on the outside of the barn for walking to and from the barn at night," explains Kozlowski. "I also wanted the lights timed so I didn't have to worry about shutting them off."

When his garage door opener had to be replaced, he realized he could use the old parts for a remote control. If he could splice his path lights into the timed opener lights, he would have the light he needed for the short walk. The lights would shut off automatically later. At the barn, he could activate the same timed function with the wall switches previously used to open the garage door.

His first step was to disconnect the opener motor and remove it, its mount and other extraneous parts. Kozlowski warns that the capacitor can hold a charge. He advises treating it like a charged car battery and taking care handling it and when disconnecting the 3 wires connecting it to the circuit board.

"I posted instructions at the Instructables website where I go into detail on what can be removed, including wiring, and what needs to be left in place," says Kozlowski.

When stripped and with minimal rewiring,



Andy Kozlowski uses a recycled garage door opener to turn on the lights outside his barn. A timer built into the opener shuts the lights off automatically.

the opener unit was ready to be used as is with its existing lights or to be wired into another circuit. Kozlowski bypassed the lights, connected the opener to an outlet and then plugged his path lights into it.

He has since reworked 3 other garage door openers, using their light fixtures inside his barn and under a porch of the barn. All respond to his remote.

"With the openers in place, I can walk my dog at night, and when I get back to the house, I don't have to go, 'Heck, I didn't shut off the barn lights,'" says Kozlowski.

A catch with most openers is the safety sensors that stop a garage door from closing if the path isn't clear. Simply disconnecting

them results in lights blinking initially before coming on steady. Kozlowski's solution is to connect them to the unit and then mount them pointed directly at each other for an "all-clear" signal. Older sensors may even be duct taped together.

For complete details, photos and a full how-to, see Kozlowski's plans on Instructables.com. Go to <http://www.instructables.com/id/Remote-Control-Timed-light-Re-purposed-From-a-Gara/>.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andy Kozlowski, 61 Old Readingsburg Rd., Califon, N.J. 07830 (ph 908 399-8886; andyk_00@yahoo.com).