



Front turret nozzle on high clearance sprayer can blast water up to 100 ft., fed sprayer's pump and tank.

Crop Sprayer Modified To Fight Fires

About 4 years ago a fire broke out on a field Clark Oberholtzer was harvesting. He and his hired man got the fire out, with help from the local fire department, but he realized he needed to have a good fire-fighting rig standing by when harvesting dry fields.

"My high clearance sprayer was built to travel through tall, dry crops and it can carry a big water supply," says Oberholtzer, who got the idea after looking at fire-fighting rigs that cost as much as \$14,000.

What he came up with was the Fire Tamer, a front turret nozzle that can blast water up to 100 ft. at 85 gpm using the sprayer's existing pump and tank. It has 180° of horizontal travel and nearly 70° vertical travel. It can direct a straight stream at a blaze or adjust it to a fog for dousing hot spots or a smoldering fire line. Wireless and hardwired remotes control turret movement and water flow.

"With the Fire Tamer, one person can engage and direct the water from the safety of a cab," says Oberholtzer. "Most high-clearance sprayers are 4-WD and can operate over open terrain with better visibility than from conventional equipment."

Best of all, he is able to price it at \$6,995 (Canadian).

The Fire Tamer can be installed on other vehicles with water tanks and a pump. However, Oberholtzer points out that fire fighting equipment closer to the ground can get crop material buildup in engine compartments or around the exhaust systems and actually create their own fire hazards.

The Fire Tamer kit consists of everything needed, except the hoses from tank to turret. Hoses can be purchased locally, and hose length will vary by sprayer.

The kit includes the turret, nozzle and controls, 2 receiver hitch style mounts, and 2-in. camlock plumbing fixtures to intercept the sprayer water supply. The turret is direct drive with linear actuators and meshed gears. All parts are made in North America, and electrical components are controlled with limit switches and thermal load protection.

A manual ball valve at the intercept prevents accidental discharge. Once it is open, a remotely-controlled ball valve releases water to the turret.

"We have mounts for most popular John Deere and Case IH high-clearance sprayers," says Oberholtzer. "The kit is available without the mounts if the customer wants to install it on another type of sprayer and build his own mounts."

"Initial installation takes about an hour. Once installed, it can be removed in about 5 min."

"I spent a lot of time thinking about the design and how it could be made very robust," says Oberholtzer. "It was designed with safety, simplicity and redundancy in mind."

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Turret nozzle has 180 degrees of horizontal travel and nearly 70 degrees vertical.



Step is a piece of 1-in. sq. steel tubing with flat metal welded to the bottom. When not in use, it pivots up and then slides inside tailgate.

Clever "Hideaway" Tailgate Step

GM recently introduced a new pickup with a fold-down tailgate step. It's pretty neat but you have to buy a new pickup to get it. Instead, you might be interested in this simple "hideaway step" idea developed by Millard Williams, Pace, Fla.

It consists of a piece of 1-in. sq. steel tubing with a step welded to the bottom made from flat steel. When it's not in use, the entire step pivots up to the side and then slides inside a 1 1/4-in. piece of square tubing inside the tailgate and is held flat against the side of the tailgate by a pivoting tab. When you need to use it, just flip up the tab, pull out the step, and pivot it down into position. When the tailgate is closed, the step is completely out of sight.

"I came up with this idea several years ago and installed them on several trucks. It's especially handy when you're hauling long loads that stick out of the box because it's off to the side so you can still step up," says Williams, who also likes that the step doesn't take up any room inside the box and is always there when he needs it.

Williams would like to put the idea on the market if there's enough interest.

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A pivoting tab holds step flat against side of tailgate. You just flip up the tab, pull out the step, and pivot it down into position.



Trailblazer loader-mounted mower comes with a new kind of mount that allows up to 11 different cutting positions.

Loader-Mounted Mower Has 11 Different Cutting Positions

Mowing steep roadsides and along fences is not a problem with the new Trailblazer TB-One loader-mounted mower. All that's needed is hydraulic power and a quick-attach configuration.

The 44-in. mower comes with a new kind of mount that allows up to 11 different cutting positions. The deck mounts on a steel arm that swivels on dual tapered roller bearings. The arm is connected to an attachment plate with a series of holes in it, and the deck angle is adjusted by changing the position of a pin in the plate. A hydraulic motor, which runs

off tractor hydraulics, operates the mower's rotary, double-sided cutting blades. The company says it works great in brush and can cut up to 3-in. dia. trees.

Four different attachment plates are available: universal skid steer, Deere 400 and 500 series tractors, Euro/Quickie/Global, and universal pin-on attach for older loaders that don't have a quick-tach system. Sells for right at \$3,750.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, sales@trailblazerattachments.com; www.trailblazerattachments.com).