



Wayne Dick, Hutchinson, Kan.: "We're happy with the 2019 **Garden Patch GrowBoxes** we bought to grow tomatoes and vegetables (www.agardenpatch.com; ph 800 519-1955). We like the concept of growing tomatoes in these fiberglass boxes, and how fast the vegetables grow."

The GrowBox measures 28 in. long, 14 in. wide, and 12 in. high and comes with a 4-gal. water well that the plant roots reach into. After assembling the GrowBox, you add potting mix and a nutrient patch, and then plant the seeds (not included). The nutrient patch constantly releases fertilizer and stops weeds. Air enters the soil from the top and bottom to prevent fungus, root rot and disease. Sells for \$29.95 plus S&H.

Richard W. Lee, Valley City, N. Dak.: "I bought a used 2005 **Bobcat S185** skid loader with about 1,600 hrs. on it. It has enough power to push snow with a 7-ft. snow bucket. This machine sips fuel, and it starts at temperatures down to 30 below zero with the block heater plugged in. I use it with a forklift attachment, brush grapple, and dirt bucket."

"The company I work for bought some **Long March** tires made in China that cost about 20 percent less than Firestone tires. They installed the tires on big trucks, but within one year the tires were worn out. The previous tires lasted about 3 years. The company also installed Long March tires on a Bobcat skid loader, and they also wore out within a year. On the other hand, **Bobcat** brand tires lasted 4 to 5 years."

John Miller, Mount Gilead, Ohio: "My best buy is **Fastrack** Equine Microbial and Enzyme Pack, which is designed to meet the nutritional needs of horses (www.conklin.com; ph 816 326-6200). "We've used this product for the last 8 years without having a single sick horse. It and the company's **Fastrack Fortifier** make an unbeatable team. We also like **Fastrack** ruminant microbial gel for our horses and goats."

Bill Kolpack, Skandia, Mich.: "Our 2019 **Milwaukee M18 1/2-in.** drive cordless impact wrench has a lot of torque. My father and I restore antique tractors, and this wrench has yet to meet a rusted bolt it can't handle. In fact, we hardly ever use our air impact wrench any more. We love this tool and highly recommend it."

Steve Palmer, Riverdale, Neb.: "The best products I've found to keep mice out of vehicles and cabinets are scented **Bounce** dryer sheets. I place them liberally in trunk and engine compartments and around wiring, and also put a couple sheets on top of vehicle tires. I change the sheets every 3 or 4 months. No problems in 10 years."

"For hard-starting gas-powered lawn mowers I add **Marvel Mystery Oil** to the gas during every fill. Older engines need lead for lubrication, and this product lubricates. It works great with ethanol gas, and I even use

it in my old Deere 60 tractor. It makes the engine run smoother at idle and also helps stop vapor locks. The gas lasts longer, and the tractor starts great even after sitting for 3 or 4 months."

"I find that **STP** oil treatment works better than grease or 90-weight oil to lubricate gearboxes. It slows or stops leaks, and gears and bearings run quieter and cooler. The oil sticks to everything, and it works even in cold temperatures."

"My **LG** dishwasher worked slow and did a poor job of cleaning, so after 4 months I junked it and bought a Maytag. It's a much better machine."

Gary Lytle, Blanchard, Okla.: Gary likes his 2016 **Toro TimeCutter SW5000** zero-turn riding mower, mostly because it's equipped with a steering wheel. "I had a stroke which caused my right arm to not work right. I have more than two acres of lawn to mow, but with this machine's steering wheel I can handle the job. Unfortunately, the company no longer sells this model."



Paul Mullen, Grafton, W. Va.: "I've cut and split firewood all my life but only recently discovered the **Fiskars** splitting axe (www.fiskars.com; ph 866 348-5661). It weighs less than a maul, splits better, and is virtually indestructible. It's a little pricier than a maul, but well worth it. Also, it's much easier on my back."

Richard McDonald, Maple Valley, Wash.: "My **LockNLube** grease coupler does a good job of clearing out clogged grease fittings (www.locknlube.com; ph 603 795-2298). It locks onto the fitting tightly and rarely leaks grease."

Jacob Schrock, Trenton, Mo.: "My **Noco** 2,000-amp, portable lithium car battery jump starter has amazing power for such a small, compact unit (Amazon.com).

"I'm disappointed with my **JCT Attachments** 6-ft. skid loader-mounted brush cutter. After only a few hours of use the blades came off the machine. Also, the blades are built too light and got bent. It definitely needs heavier blades and mounting bolts."

Roger Kahler, Dunnell, Minn.: "I've used **SealLube** seal expander for years to stop rubber seal leaks in engines as well as power steering and hydraulic systems (www.seallube.com; ph 800 434-9192). I use it with the hydraulic system on my 35-year-old skid loader, in power steering lines in various vehicles, and in the gearbox on our renter's stalk chopper. Works great."

Peter E. Nuskey, Southampton, Penn.: He's had good results with **JB Weld** long-cure epoxy (www.jbweld.com; ph 903 885-7696). "As long as you take care to clean the broken parts, JB Weld will hold them together like barnacles hold onto a ship. I used the product to secure the rear view mirror outside my 1981 Volkswagen Rabbit. It held that mirror on for 24 years, even though I don't have a garage and always kept the car outside."

Eldon Hernberger, Conway Springs, Kan.: "My **Milwaukee** cordless grease gun is easy to use and often works on zerkos that won't take in grease with a pistol-grip gun. It comes with a nice, plastic molded storage case."

Bob Owens, Montrose, Penn.: "I like my **Bosch** cordless drill/driver and impact driver, which I bought as a set. These compact tools have batteries that last a long time. They also have a battery level indicator that shows how much charge is left."



Log splitter mounts in place of the bucket on Zimmerman's Takeuchi compact excavator.

"Best Buy" Compact Excavator

Dean Zimmerman, Tunas, Mo., recently sent FARM SHOW updated photos of his excavator-mounted log splitter that was featured in our last issue.

"The photos show how my Takeuchi compact excavator hooks up to the splitter," says Zimmerman. "The splitter mounts in place of the bucket. It lets me split firewood and load it into a truck or trailer without ever getting off the excavator. I can swing the splitter around just like I would swing the bucket around, without moving the machine and tearing up the ground."



Bracket-mounted receiver hitch on excavator lets Zimmerman tow a trailer around after loading it with firewood.

and drop the pieces into a truck or trailer," says Zimmerman. "I used a piece of pipe, the cutting edge off a dozer blade, and worn out teeth from an old excavator to build the bucket curl."

He also built a bracket-mounted receiver hitch for the excavator so he can tow a trailer around after loading firewood into it. The receiver hitch is supported by 3 pieces of square tubing welded to the excavator's frame.

"My Takeuchi excavator is really handy. Besides making firewood, I also use it to dig trenches and to unload stuff from my trailers," notes Zimmerman.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dean Zimmerman, 73 Elkhorn Lane, Tunas, Mo. 65764 (ph 417 770-1158).



Home-built "bucket curl" is used to swivel splitter to a vertical position, and the wood is then split and dropped into a trailer.

The close-up photo shows his home-built, quick-tach "bucket curl" that's operated by a hydraulic cylinder. "I use the bucket curl to swivel the splitter from a horizontal position to a vertical position, and then split the log

John E. Mills, Howell, Mich.: John's the satisfied owner of a 2018 **Kubota ZD1211** zero-turn mower equipped with a 72-in. deck. "We use it to cut about 7 acres on our home farm, and to mow road frontages and around buildings on other farms that we own. It does

"It cost about \$3,000 less than comparable green or red mowers."

a fine job of cutting and is built much heavier than many other models, which makes it more enjoyable to operate. I bought it to replace an Exmark mower. It cost about \$3,000 less than comparable green or red mowers."

Robert L. Green, Gettysburg, Penn.: Robert's impressed with **Permatex** Cold Weld bonding compound, a 2-part adhesive and filler system that eliminates the need for welding or brazing (www.permatex.com). "Works good on worn 2-cylinder flywheels and crankshafts. Just clean them, apply Permatex, adjust and tighten the flywheel, and let the epoxy cure," he says. "If you have to remove the flywheel later, you can use a 12-ton jack to pull it off."

He's disappointed with the 2020 Quincy 5-hp. air compressor he bought from **Northern Tool**. "A 2 1/2-in. plug on top of the tank consistently leaked air where the air

regulator taps into the plug. The problem is that the plug has an O-ring that won't seat properly. I called the factory technician and they sent me a smaller O-ring. It worked better, but at 100 lbs. pressure the O-ring pushed out again. I tried using 'pipe dope' to hold it in place but that didn't help, either. Then I tried using **Permatex** sealant (www.permatex.com). Now the compressor works great again."

Tim Harbaugh, Jonesboro, Texas: "My **Deere** 3025 loader tractor works great to do digging and lifting jobs. No problems."

Anna Johnson, Gibbon, Minn.: She's disappointed with her **PMC** big bale sheep feeder. "The company's cattle feeder works great, because the trough at the bottom saves a lot of hay from being wasted. The sheep model is similar in design but doesn't work as well, mostly because sheep are smaller than cattle and can't eat into the bale and shove it around to find good hay. Therefore, the good hay remains at the center of the feeder where sheep can't reach it. Then I have to come out and wrestle the bale around so the sheep can reach the good hay."

Gene Federman, Springfield, Tenn.: "I bought a used 2001 **Deere** 5520 cab tractor with about 600 hrs. on it, but soon it developed fuel problems. I replaced the fuel filter and rubber fuel lines, since the tractor didn't have a fuel pump and was having trouble bringing fuel up from under