Multi-Cart Helps With Outdoor Projects

The Worx Aerocart is an all-purpose yard tool. It combines the capabilities of a yard cart, wheelbarrow, hand truck dolly, extended dolly, bag holder, cylinder holder, rock lifter, flowerpot carrier and trailer mover in one device. "The Aerocart is more than just a wheelbarrow; it has over eight different uses, making it a versatile home and garden tool that makes life much easier," says Meg Butterly, company representative. "There's even a wagon accessory."

According to Worx, the Aerocart makes it possible to knock out an afternoon's worth of chores in a fraction of the time. "It's great for professionals and average consumers alike," Butterly says. "We've seen it used for moving appliances, firewood, trees and dirt. When being used with the wagon accessory, it's a gardener's dream." She's relied on it when planting arborvitaes in her backyard and has observed neighbors using it to move a refrigerator. "My mom's used it to remove light snow from her sidewalk, and my sister uses it as a wagon to take the kids on a ride through the neighborhood," Butterly says.

The Aerocart is made of steel for guaranteed durability and is painted with a thick powder coating for rust protection. Its design includes padded grips, collapsible support legs, a plant mover strap, rock mover mesh and more. Because the main components are exposed to wear and tear, signs of rust can be expected over time. The polyurethane tires are flat-free.

Converting between the wheelbarrow and dolly requires nothing more than pulling the release knob on the side of the cart to fold or unfold the legs. "Thanks to the two-wheel yard cart design, when the cart is loaded with 200 lbs. of materials, it'll only feel like 17 lbs. when you move it," says Butterly. "The two wheels adjust the center of gravity, making it much more stable than a traditional wheelbarrow and easier to move."

Converting between the wheelbarrow and dolly requires nothing more than pulling the release knob on the side of the cart to fold or unfold the legs.

The Aerocart is priced at $249 and has a 3-year warranty. Optional accessories include a Wheelbarrow Wagon Kit ($119), a Tub Organizer ($49), a Firewood Carrier ($54) and a Snowplow attachment ($54).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Worx Tools, 10130 Perimeter Pkwy., Suite 300, Charlotte, N.C. 28216 (ph 855-477-7361; www.worx.com).

"It moves a lot of water," says Water Hog Operations Manager Aaron Winfrey. "Depending on the situation and the engine rpm, it can pump anywhere from 15,000 to 40,000 gpm."

Pump Moves Massive Amounts Of Water

Water Hog Inc.'s mission is to conserve surface water for reservoirs and basins, replenish the water table, and reuse water to improve farming practices.

To achieve this, they developed a specialized system to quickly move water for irrigation, filling reservoirs, draining farmland, and flooding duck ponds and marshes.

Water Hog's primary pump features a 24-in. inlet and a 30-in. outlet. Variable lengths of ductile iron pipes are lifted and bolted together to reach the water source. A 45-degree pump elbow reduces friction and resistance that occurs with 90-degree turns. Water is lifted at a 23-degree angle for ease of flow and less gravity resistance.

"Usually, we use a standard 22 ft. of piping for most farms and operations, but we can make longer lengths, if necessary," says Water Hog Operations Manager Aaron Winfrey. "The longest we've made is 30 ft., but the standard works for most farms and duck ponds."

The pump is powered by a diesel engine ranging in size from 250 to 350 hp., depending on the need. Above-water greaseless bearings are installed for long-lasting performance.

"It moves a lot of water," Winfrey says. "Depending on the situation and the engine rpm, it can pump anywhere from 15,000 to 40,000 gpm."

The pumping system is available throughout North America and is sold directly from Arkansas.

"It's not cheaply made," Winfrey says. "Everything is manufactured in the U.S. and is of exceptional quality. We at Water Hog will oversee the installation and make sure it operates properly."

The pumping system, including the pump, discharge and accessories, costs between $85,000 and $177,000, depending on pipe lengths and other options.

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Planting Cover Crops For Forage And Soil Health

Schrack Farms builds soil health with cover crops and then harvests them as forage for the family farm's dairy herd. Combined with no-till, the practice has allowed some fields to stay in continuous corn for nearly 20 years, with some scoring in the 90s on the Cornell Soil Health Test.

"We take corn silage off in the fall and plant cover crops, sometimes on the same day," says Jim Harbach, Schrack Farms. "We plant fields to either cereal rye or triticale for forage cover crops. They mature at different times, which breaks up the risk factor. We prefer triticale, but the rye gives us a bigger window."

Harbach feeds his cover crop fields well. Solid manure from the farm's 1,300 dairy cows runs through a methane digester. The remaining liquids are drag hose applied to fields multiple times each year. Once fields are seeded down, they get dragged with manure. As soon as the Harbachs can get back in the fields in the spring and the overwintered plants reach about 15 in., they get another dose of liquid manure. Forage harvest depends on the weather. This year, due to continuous rains, it was mid-May.

"We completely remove the forage, plant corn and apply more manure," says Harbach. "It shortens the planting window some, but the liquid manure runs into the groove left by the planter for in-furrow nutrition. Our best yields are from those fields."

It's not just chopped acres that get cover crops. Combined acres get seeded down as well with cereal rye. Planted later, they don't get harvested for forage in the spring. Instead, they are planted green with the rye terminated after the corn goes in.

"We try to have something green growing in the fields every day of the year," says Harbach. "If you only plant in May and harvest in October, you harm the soil biology."

Harbach measures his soil health by more than just yields. "Our organic matter levels just keep rising," he says. "Our aggregates also keep getting better. It's really noticeable how the water infiltrates. Tests revealed our lowest infiltration was 8 in. per hour, and our highest was 13 in."

Spring manure application on overwintered cover crops.

Harbach remembers when the soils weren't as good. He began working for his future father-in-law when he was 11, helping pick rocks. He recalls plowing fields in the early 1970s when the clay ridges had only a couple of inches of topsoil before you plowed up clay.

"When we tilled, picking rocks was a full-time job," says Harbach. "We had to run the harrow over it four or five times. Today, I can dig a hole 3 to 4 in. deep in that soft dirt. That's the transition I've seen over the past 50 years."

Harbach is looking forward to continued improvement in soil health and forage harvesting. He and his wife, Lisa, are the ninth generation on the farm. They now have some 20 family members from the tenth and eleventh generations farming with them.

"My father-in-law got us into no-till and planting green. That was his legacy," says Harbach. "We started double cropping with cover crops because we needed the feed. Then we saw the advantages in soil health of having something growing all the time."

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The Ultra MT tracks grain sample information for optimal blending practices and sends spoilage alerts via email or text.

Simple Integrated Grain Sampler

VeriGrain, an innovative start-up, developed the high-tech AccuSampler Ultra MT, an automated grain sampler easily installed on swing augers, baggers, grain dryers and other grain handling equipment.

According to VeriGrain CEO Ken Jackson, collecting an accurate sample is crucial to determining a product's value and protecting it in storage.

The Ultra MT uses a small auger and slotted tube to extract representative grain samples automatically. This ensures samples are random throughout the inventory. The sampler measures the grain's moisture content and temperature. Power is delivered by 12-volt DC or optional 120-volt power supplies.

The unit interacts with the VeriGrain app via Bluetooth, providing average and high-low outputs. It tracks grain sample information for optimal blending practices and sends spoilage alerts via email or text.

"Representative samples let you accurately determine valuable characteristics to get the most for your grain," says a VeriGrain news release. "Having detailed spoilage risk information for the grain in all your bins, not just the ones you have monitoring cables in, lets you prevent a little problem from becoming a big loss."

The Ultra MT, complete with moisture-temperature sensor, retails for $4,595 CAD plus S&H. Prices vary depending on mounting.

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