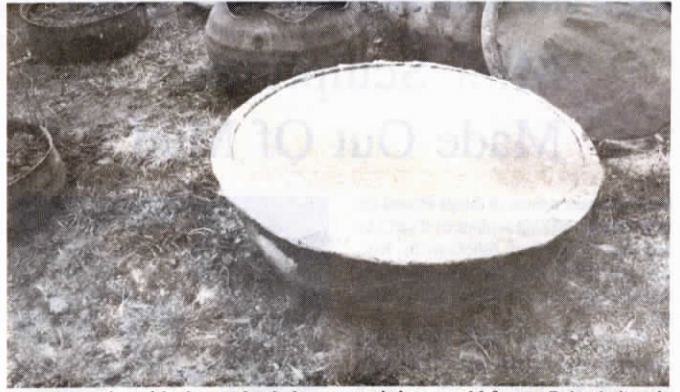




Bryce and McIntyre say garden crops are easier to take care of in raised tire beds. Mulch stops weed growth.



Covering a tire with clear polyethylene turns it into a cold frame. Polyethylene is stapled onto tire bead, and weight of bead holds it in place.

"BETTER THAN RAISED BEDS MADE OUT OF WOOD"

Raised Garden Beds Made From Old Tires

"Old worn out tires make great raised garden beds. They're surprisingly attractive and offer a lot of benefits over conventional or wood raised gardens," says Steve Bryce and Bob McIntyre, Rhodes, Iowa.

They cut off the top sidewall, turn the tire inside out, and fill it with soil, then cover the top of each plant bed with a layer of mulch to keep weeds out and to conserve moisture.

"It keeps tires out of landfills and turns a disposal problem into a resource," says Bryce. "I like them better than conventional gardens because there's no bending over and no need for rototilling. You never have to worry about accidentally stepping on plants or getting your shoes muddy because even if you water the plants the area between tires stays dry. You can apply mulch or crushed rock around the tires, or cover the bottom, paint them, and place them on your patio. We use a Weed Eater to control any stray weeds between tires.

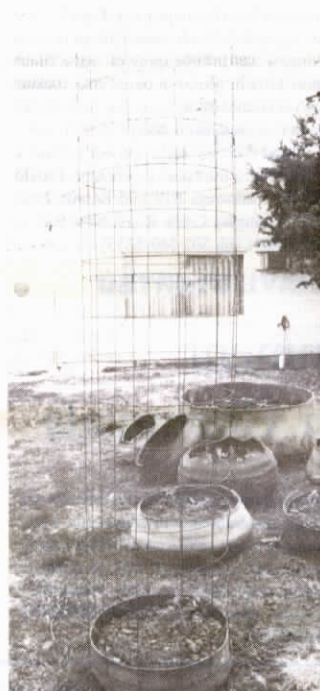
"Each tire is a microenvironment that acts as an excellent heat sink in the spring and offers wind protection for starting plants. The space between tires is a barrier to pest

movement so insect problems are isolated in individual tires. The mixture of soil in each tire can be individually controlled according to plant needs. If your soil is poor and you need to buy topsoil, you can save money because you only have to buy enough for the tires instead of the entire garden.

"Tire gardens are less expensive than wood raised beds and work better because they won't rot or decay. The raised beds are easily accessible for handicapped people and keep rabbits from feeding on plants. Burrowing animals can be kept out by mounting screen over the bottom of the tire. However, we normally leave the bottom of the tire open for drainage and so that roots can penetrate the ground."

Bryce and McIntyre cut the sidewall and top bead out with a Saws All. The next step is to turn the tire inside out by pushing the remaining bead through the center of the tire. They then fill each tire with soil, or alternating layers of soil and compost.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ecoire, 1079 320th St., Rhodes, Iowa 50234 (ph 515 493-2494).



Vertical wire cage (above left) supports bush or ground-hugging crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers, etc. Compost container (top right) is made by screwing together a pair of 20-in. truck tires turned inside out. Top and bottom of container are covered with mesh screen. Decorative tire (bottom right) stores garden hose.

MOUNTS IN BED OF PICKUP

New Lift For Wheelchairs

If you or anyone you know is confined to a wheelchair but still runs a farm, you'll be interested in the new "Freedom Lift" - the most sophisticated and useful wheelchair handler we've ever seen.

Manufactured in Canada after two years of computer design and prototype work, the lift was conceived by Freedom Technologies Incorporated with the help of the Saskatchewan Handicapped Farmers Association, who were asked to imagine the perfect lifting device for wheelchair farmers. What they came up with is a lift that provides access to any farm machine, eliminating the need to alter each new piece of equipment.

Mounts in the back of a 1/2-ton or larger pickup. Rotates 180° and reaches out 11 ft. and up as high as 7 ft., 8 in. It has a platform big enough to accommodate any size wheelchair and is operated by platform-mounted toggle switches or a carry-along radio remote control. No outside assistance needed.

"It reaches up to the driver's side of the



pickup, so you can get right on without getting out of the truck, and lifts you up to the tractor, combine or other equipment. For transport, it folds down into the back of the truck. The smooth hydraulic operation of the lift allows for infinite movement and delicate maneuvering," says Howard Derksen, general manager, noting that the lift has its own self contained electric-powered hydraulic unit that mounts in the

bed and runs off the pickup 12-volt battery.

Sells for \$18,800 (Canadian) and fits all makes of pickups without modification.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Freedom Technologies Inc., 2104B St. George

Ave., Saskatoon, Sask. S7M 0K7 (ph 306 244-1508; fax 306 934-2553).