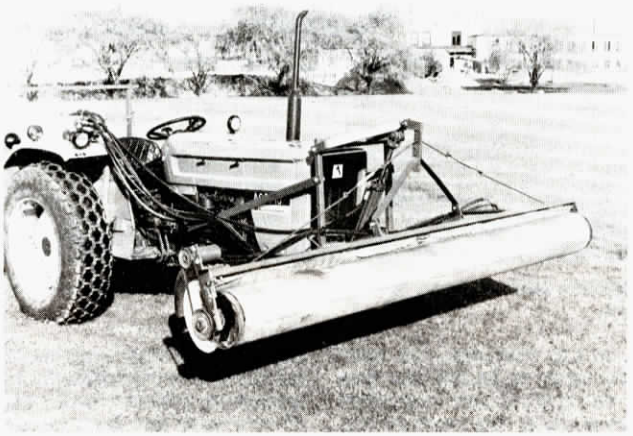

Build Your Own Carpet Sprayer

If you've considered building one of those rolling carpet-type herbicide sprayers that have stormed the market, you'll be interested in do-it-yourself construction plans which the Canadian Research Center at Centralia College, Huron Park, Ontario, Can., will send "free for the asking" to interested FARM SHOW readers.

Jim O'Toole, crop scientist at the college, says farmer demand for the carpet spray applicator has been great in Ontario. He notes that the machine is particularly good in taking volunteer corn out of soybeans, or tall growing milkweed out of corn, soybeans and other legumes. He and his co-workers have used Roundup at a 6-8% solution and Amitrol T (Cytrol) at 10-12% to kill other weeds and volunteer corn where it's a problem in soybeans, and in some vegetable crops, such as turnips. "A gallon of either solution will treat 4 to 4½ acres, depending on the number of weeds and weather conditions," O'Toole told FARM SHOW.

Chemical is sprayed evenly on the continuous turning 10 ft. roller through evenly spaced holes and a small copper tube running just above the roller.

The applicator, which costs about $200 to build, is raised and lowered hydraulically to adjust to height of the crop being worked. The roller is powered by a small hydraulic motor at one end. Controls are mounted next to the tractor seat. The chemical tank is mounted in the rear.

"It's very similar to other carpet sprayers on the market. Only difference is that this one is easy to make, easy to fix, and doesn't cost nearly as much," O'Toole points out.

Plans include complete diagrams and a list of everthing needed, and approximate costs.

For a set of plans, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim O'Toole, Centralia College of Agricultural Technology, Huron Park, Ontario, Canada NOM 1YO (ph 519 228-6691).

Center Pivot Irrigator for Your Lawn

The miniature center pivot irrigator on the lawn of a Nebraska farmer may look like a toy or a decoration, but it's a real working lawn sprinkling system.

The unusual rig was designed and built by Kent Theobald, a high school senior in Geneva, Neb. Kent is no stranger to irrigation as his father puts artificial rain on 900 acres of corn and milo on their farm. The project was part of a school project done in partnership with a school friend, Dick Fessler.

The new lawn irrigator is electrically-driven with controls in the garage. The motor runs on direct current which is changed with a transformer. The DC motor is weather proof and shock proof.

The boom is 40 ft. long with sprinkler tips of various sizes to make sure that grass close to the pivot receives the same amount of spray as grass at the far end.

The boom is 1-in. diameter galvanized pipe. The whole rig runs at 40-60 p.s.i.

When the boom approaches the house, it makes contact with two metal stakes that cause it to reverse itself. The system can be set up to sprinkle just about any size and shape of lawn.

Kent Theobald got the idea for the irrigation rig because he has about an acre of lawn to take care of. "The grass grows so fast under irrigation," Kent says, "that I had to design a lawn vacuum cleaner to pick up the clippings. That's another invention that might interest readers.

For information write Kent Theobald, Route 1, Box 105, Geneva, Neb. 68361.

FARM SHOW

"Made it Myself"

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors?

Harold M. Johnson, Editor

Dye Marker is Part of Spray Rig Designed by Farmer

A Kansas wheat farmer, Virgil Simpson, knows where he's going with his chemical weed control program. He's developed a new dye marker for crop spraying that prevents overlaps and misses.

The dye marker operates independently of his spray rig. Dye is carried in a 20-gallon tank and pumped to the end of the spray boom with two 12-volt marine pumps that run off the tractor power take-off. The dye is applied behind a disk on the end of the boom.

The purple dye Simpson uses is an intense paper dye that lasts several days. If he has a sprayer breakdown, he can return to the field the next day and find where he left off.

One-half pint of dye dissolved in 20 gallons of water will spray 25 acres at a cost of a little more than 10 cents per acre for the dye.

The dye marker sprays for 4 seconds and then has an 8-second non-spray interval. Dye spraying intervals are controlled by a sprayer-mounted timer.

Simpson designed his entire spray rig with some special built-in features. The booms are 40 feet long and 20 inches off the ground with nozzles placed every 20 inches. Coulters at each end of the booms support and keep them from flopping and applying an irregular spray pattern.

He can control the rate of spray application by changing ground speed. The PTO-driven pump changes the pressure as ground speed changes.

Simpson has been using his precise spraying rig for several years, and has built a dozen rigs for neighbors. He isn't planning on manufacturing them himself, but is looking for an interested manufacturer.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Virgil Simpson; Route 1, Ransom, Kan. 67572 (ph 913 731-2700).