Cow Manure “Sculptures” Fertilize Gardens

Here’s a piece of artwork that’s meant to sit among your plants instead of on your coffee table. “PooPets” are animal sculptures molded from cow manure. You simply place them around your garden, trees, or shrubs. You can even put them in with potted plants. Moisture “melts” them down gradually, providing a steady source of nutrients to plants without burning or injuring roots.

“They’re completely odorless, biodegradable and safe,” says John Phaltury of Tekebury Gardens, manufacturer. “We use a process that sanitizes the manure and removes all odors. They’ll last for over two years outdoors and much longer indoors. When placed outside, PooPets soon turn gray and look stone-like. As they weather they develop a network of fine cracks and look marbled. Over time these cracks increase, exposing more of the interior to the elements and resulting in a kind of timed release of fertilizer.”

PooPets are available in many different shapes such as Dung Bunnies, T-Burds, Stool Tots and Turdles, as well as cats, pigs, ducks, snails, cows, etc. They’re available in large and small sizes. Their eyes are made from either black-eyed peas or mustard seeds. They’re hand made by Amish craftsmen so no two are alike.

They sell for $9 to $13.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tekebury Gardens, 77 Bissell Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833 (ph 908 236-0885).

Walk-In Bathtub Great For Elderly, Disabled

First-of-its-kind walk-in bathtub has a large watertight door that lets you walk right in, sit down, and then turn on the water.

“It’s ideal for the elderly and disabled who don’t have to depend on anyone else for daily hygiene,” says M.P. Farmice of Gainsborough Bathrooms, Birmingham, England, the company that developed the new tub. It holds twice as much water as a standard-size tub and is fitted with whirlpool-type jet nozzles to relax muscles, aid circulation, and ease pain. Optional grab handles can be fitted to the top and there’s a thermostatic valve concealed under the tank that keeps water temperature at a safe, preset level as it enters the tub.

Fits into a space of just 37 by 42 in. and connects to conventional plumbing. The company is looking for a U.S. distributor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gainsborough Bathrooms, Ltd., Unit 43, 815 Main Street, Stockmarrs Close, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 9TS England (ph 021 433-3113; fax 021 486-1215).

Long-Handled Hedge Trimmer Great For “Whipping” Weeds

“It’s five times faster than a string trimmer and does a better job,” says C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill., who modified an electric hedge trimmer by fitting it with a long handle so he can use it to “whip” weeds while standing erect.

“Hedge trimmers are far more aggressive than weed whippers and the 16-in. long cutterbar works great for cutting grass under shrubs and trees with overhanging branches. When I want to use it to trim hedges again, I can quickly unclamp the long handle.”

“I made the extended handle from 1/4-in. dia. gas pipe because it’s rigid yet easy to bend by clamping it in a vise and using a large piece of pipe.”

“The handle clamps right to the trimmer handle with two ordinary hose clamps. No modification is required to the trimmer. Because hedge trimmers are so well balanced, it’s easy to handle for ground trimming. When cutting up close to a wall or tree, it works good to drag it along the ground at an angle.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2588).

All-Weather Hoods Beat Winter Cold

A cold-weather idea, born in the oilfields of Oklahoma, is catching on all over North America with anyone who works or plays outdoors in winter.

Herod’s cold-weather hoods first came on the market three years ago, designed to fit over hardhats of oilfield workers. Since then the company has come up with designs that fit under hard hats, over seed corn caps, and on bare heads. Face flaps pull back to fasten behind or on top of the head when not needed. The machine washable hoods come in a variety of colors and fabrics and are available in sizes from small to extra large.

The company says they’ve been used everywhere from Alaska to Siberia.

Sells for $35.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herod’s Cold Weather Hoods, Box 455, 167 West Main, Canton, Okla. 73724 (ph 800 526-3713 or 405 886-3433).