

REACHES LIMBS UP TO 30 FT. HIGH

Tractor-Mounted Saw Makes Tree-Trimming Safe

"Before we built this trimmer, we used to stand in a loader bucket and used a chain saw to trim trees," says Roger Elliott, who, along with his brother Bruce and late father Paul, made a 3-pt. boom-mounted buzz saw that they use to trim tree limbs along field edges.

The Montrose, Ill., farmers average one or two days a year trimming oaks, hickory trees, and hedgerows with what they call a "Boombuzzer". It lets them trim limbs up to 30 ft. high from the safety of their tractor cab.

The men built a 24-ft. long boom out of 4 by 6-in. sq. tubing affixed to a frame that mounts on the 3-pt. The frame is raised and lowered by a 4-in. hydraulic cylinder off an old truck winch.

A 26-in. dia. blade off an old buzz saw

mounts on the end of the boom, which is trussed for extra strength. The saw is direct driven by a hydraulic motor powered by tractor hydraulics. The Elliotts made a mandrill out of 1 1/2-in. dia. cold rolled steel to mount the blade and a flex coupling to compensate for any misalignment of the blade during use.

The rig allows the Elliotts to trim limbs from 3 ft. off the ground up to 30 ft. high.

"We always try to make cuts from the top down to avoid pinching the blade and try to work with the saw as far back from the tractor as possible," Roger says. "It's a well balanced machine and the only thing I can think of that would improve it is if we had a bi-directional tractor to use with it so we wouldn't have to turn around all the time."

3-FT. WIDE RIG HAS 5-FT. LONG TRACKS AND IS POWERED BY AN 18 HP GAS ENGINE

Mini Dozer Does The Work Of A Bigger Machine

When he couldn't find a commercial-built bulldozer small enough to do the jobs he needed done, Erroll Borsky, Burnaby, B.C., decided to build his own mini dozer. It's just 3 ft. wide and runs on homemade steel tracks 5 ft. long.

The hydrostatic-driven rig is powered by an 18 hp Kohler gas engine. It weighs only 4,000 lbs., making it light enough to haul in the back of a pickup. It has a 2 1/2-gal. fuel tank. Borsky made a variety of quick-release attachments for it including a 36-in. wide loader bucket, an 8-ft. snow blade, and a front-mount, 18-in. wide backhoe. The bucket lifts up to 800 lbs. and the backhoe bucket rotates 270 degrees and has a reach of 10 ft.

"Everyone who sees it at work is totally amazed. I built it because I race motorcycles and needed a small dozer for clearing motorcycle trails on hillsides. The ones I looked at were either underpowered or too big and they didn't turn properly or have enough ground clearance. The smallest commercial dozer I could find was 43 in. wide. Mine is very maneuverable, yet it has enough power to

push over a 6-in. dia. tree. I've dug out virtually any size tree or rock that a big machine could dig out. The only difference is that the job takes longer.

"I spent about \$10,000 to build it but have already done a lot of custom work with it so it has paid for itself. I've had offers to buy it but I have too much fun operating it. Top speed is about 4 mph, but the rig doesn't have any suspension system so most of the time I just creep along with it."

The 18 hp engine is connected by a centrifugal clutch to a common shaft that drives a hydraulic pump. The pump drives separate Char-Lynn motors on tracks as well as the attachments.

"Because the axial piston pumps are infinitely variable, I can run the engine at about half throttle most of the time," says Borsky. "As a result I can go for about 4 hours on 2 1/2 gallons of fuel. The engine compartment is small and doesn't have an inch to spare. It was pretty tricky getting everything to fit - I even had to build a custom air intake and an exhaust system for it."

To build the pads for the tracks Borsky



Rig uses a 26-in. dia. blade off an old buzz saw mounted on the end of a 24-ft. long boom. The Elliotts can trim limbs from 3 ft. off the ground up to 30 ft. high.

Out-of-pocket expense was under \$300.

"It was well worth our time and money," Roger says. "The safety aspects of this rig far outweigh the investment."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger and Bruce Elliott, 19478 North 400th St., Montrose, Ill. 62445 (ph 217 924-4350).



Borsky's mini dozer is just 3 ft. wide. It runs on homemade steel tracks 5 ft. long.

made 1/4-in. thick, 3 by 6-in. pieces of steel and welded them to a 3-in. pitch conveyor chain. Then he welded steel plates and grousers onto each link for increased traction.

"The only problem I've had with it is when mud builds up on the undercarriage and tracks, causing a grinding action that wears out parts," says Borsky. "It works best when the sun is out and the ground is dry."

Borsky would like to find a manufacturer interested in the design.

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A variety of quick-release attachments can be used with the rig, including this front-mount, 18-in. wide backhoe.

Trap Catches Flies By The Thousands

New Zealand farmer Donald Temple-Cox discovered the key component to his flytrap one day when having a beer at the end of a long day.

It suddenly hit him that he could use the empty can to create the perfect one-way entry into his trap.

He punched holes around the outer circumference of each end of a bunch of cans and covered up the drinking hole. Then he cut holes in the sides of a plastic bucket and stuck the empty cans into the holes. He puts rotten fish - or some other equally fragrant bait - into the bucket and puts a clear plastic cover on top.

Flies are attracted by the scent and head for the clear top. They find their way inside through the holes in the cans but then can't

find their way out. The buckets literally fill up with thousands of flies.

The trick is finding a place to put the trap where the smell will not bother people.

The trap worked so well Cox patented it. At a recent show he had interest from fish farmers who were interested in the trap as a way to feed fish. Production models have specially molded plastic ports fashioned after the beer cans.

Cox makes traps that range in size from 2 1/2 gal. up to 50 gal.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Temple-Cox, Awakau Rd Mokau, Taranaki, New Zealand.

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To make his prototype, Cox stuck empty beer cans into the sides of plastic buckets. Flies find their way inside through holes in the cans but then can't find their way out.