

Nifty Tomato Growing Ideas

Overhead Wires Provide Support

If you struggle to provide enough support for big tomato plants in your garden, you might like this idea from Joe Lynch, Ames, Iowa.

He strings heavy wire tightly across the top of a row of plants and then runs loops of twine down to the ground for the plants to climb on. The twine is staked at ground level to hold the twine tight.

The arrangement lets plants climb as high as they need and makes them easy to pick, notes Lynch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Lynch, Rt. 6, Box 26, Ames, Iowa 50010 (ph 515 292-0117).



Wire is strung across top of plants, which climb up loops of suspended twine.

Bucket Tomatoes Fit Tight Spaces

If garden space is tight – or if you want to have fresh tomatoes right outside your back door – you might like the idea of filling a 5-gal. bucket with dirt and planting a tomato in it.

Jimmie Stone, Nevada, Iowa, puts a line of tomato buckets along the walkway next to his house. Each bucket is also equipped with a support cage for the plant to grow on.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jimmie Stone, 725 F. Ave., Nevada, Iowa 50102 (ph 515 382-2914).



A 5-gal. bucket filled with dirt makes a handy tomato planter, says Stone.

Doggie Doorbell Lets Pet Ring To Get In

If you're tired of hearing your dog scratch at the door when he wants to get in or go out, you'll like this wireless dog doorbell.

It consists of a small pad that the dog activates by putting his paw on it. When pressed, it activates a chime with your choice of two sounds – a ding-dong or a dog bark.

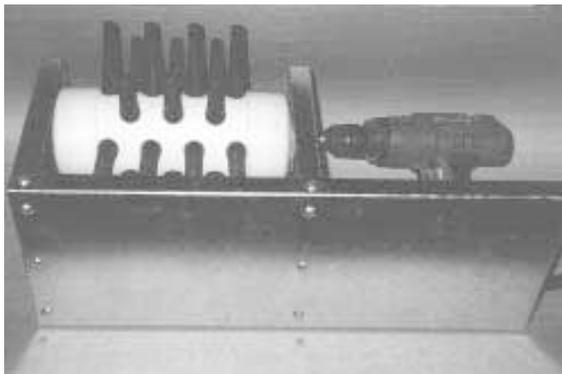
The Pet Chime can be used inside or outside.

Sells for \$29.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lentek, P.O. Box 560445, Orlando, Fla. 32856 (ph 407 857-8768).



Dog activates chime by putting his paw on pad.



Chicken plucker is powered by any standard hand-operated drill.

Home-Sized Chicken Plucker

"Our new home-sized chicken plucker is designed to be powered by any standard hand-operated drill. It's a low-cost unit suited to anyone who processes only a few birds a year for home consumption," says Kenneth King, JaKo, Inc., Hutchinson, Kan.

The mini plucker mounts within a steel frame.

"It's designed for anyone who plucks 20 to 50 chickens per year," says King. "Several companies make similar products except

that they're equipped with an electric motor which increases the cost."

Sells for \$159 plus \$19 S&H. The company makes a line of larger chicken scalding and plucking equipment.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, JaKo, Inc., 6003 E. Eales Rd., Hutchinson, Kan. 67501 (ph 316 663-1470; E-mail: kjdking@mindspring.com; Website: www.jakoinc.com).

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"Mosquito Eater" Mimics Humans To Attract Bugs

Electronic bug zappers that use light to attract bugs aren't effective against most mosquitoes. They simply circle the light without getting zapped. A new "mosquito eater" called the Dragonfly is said to solve the problem by mimicking the heat and smell of a body, luring the mosquitoes close in and then electrocuting them.

"It's chemical-free and doesn't make any annoying zapping sounds. And it doesn't kill other beneficial insects," says Jim Nolen.

The electric-powered unit is based on USDA research showing that mosquitoes are attracted to body heat, as well as to the carbon dioxide and octenol (a form of alcohol) that warm-blooded animals release when they exhale. Mosquitoes have ultrasensitive receptors that can detect these compounds from up to 100 ft. away. The Dragonfly uses all three attractants: A heating element is combined with a carbon dioxide reservoir and dispenser that releases both carbon dioxide and octenol.

The unit is designed with four "wings" which contain electro-static panels. A micro-processor inside the unit sends an electric pulse to the panels 15 times each second. As mosquitoes circle the unit looking for a place to land, they fly through the wings and are hit by a miniature lightning bolt, which causes them to die instantly and fall intact into a removable collection tray. Mosquitoes flying near any of the panels are killed even if they don't touch them.

The unit should be placed at least 30 ft.



Unit is equipped with four "wings" which contain electro-static panels.

away from your home, positioned to intercept mosquitoes flying in from swampy areas or shrubby woods, etc.

The company offers two models. One uses a 2-lb. bottle of carbon dioxide that's enough to last about 33 days. It sells for \$280 plus S&H. A professional model uses a 20-lb. bottle of carbon dioxide which is enough to last about 132 days. It sells for \$450 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BioSensory, Inc., Windham Technology Center, 322 Main St., Building 1, 2nd Floor, Willimantic, Ct. 06226 (ph 860 423-3009; fax 3028; E-mail: mail@biosensory.com; Website: www.biosensory.com).

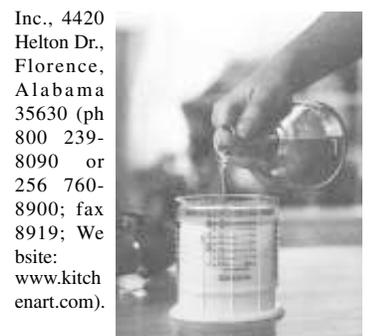
Adjustable Measuring Cup

Honey, peanut butter, shortening and heavy syrups can be very difficult to measure and are especially difficult to remove from a measuring cup.

KitchenArt says its new Adjust-A-Cup makes the job easy. It replaces six conventional measuring cups and can measure from 1/8 cup up to 1 cup of liquid or dry ingredients. A durable rubber seal wipes the inside of the cup as you extract your desired measurement. Simply push up or down on the sleeve to adjust the measurement or to push out even the messiest ingredients.

Sells for \$4.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, KitchenArt, A Division of Robbins Industries,



Adjust-A-Cup can measure liquid or dry ingredients from 1/8 cup up to 1 cup.