



Gene Cafourek made this state-of-the-art self-propelled mini spray rig by mounting a 13 1/2-ft. boom on front of his 17 hp Bolens hydrostatic garden tractor.

He Makes Money With Home-Built "Lawn Sprayer"

"It works like a big commercial farm sprayer," says Gene Cafourek, Stewartville, Minn., who made a state-of-the-art self-propelled mini spray rig by mounting a 13 1/2-ft. boom on front of his 17 hp Bolens hydrostatic garden tractor. There's a 25-gal. tank on back of the tractor, and another 100-gal. tank on a cart that pulls behind the tractor.

"I use the sprayer to control weeds at local cemeteries and on a half dozen local farmsteads. I can cover nine acres at a time," says Cafourek. "The 3-section boom is made from 1-in. pipe, and each outside section on the boom is connected to a rope. By pulling on either of the ropes I can pull the sections back against the sides of the tractor, allowing the rig to squeeze through narrow spaces."

A Hypro roller pump is belt-driven off a pulley mounted on the engine crankshaft. A Terra Tronics monitor, which mounts on a bracket in front of the steering wheel, is used to monitor field speeds and to measure acreage in order to get the proper application rate.

The boom is equipped with flood jet nozzles spaced 40 in. apart. "I installed a manifold with six outlets – five for flood jet nozzles and one for a hand gun that I use to spot spray weeds," says Cafourek. "As a result, I can vary the spraying width on-the-go anywhere from 3 ft. 4 in. to 16 1/2 ft." The boom mounts on a length of 1-in. tubing and can be raised or lowered by pulling a pin.

A 12-volt air compressor pump is used to make marker foam in a 2 1/2-gal. aluminum tank.

"It really works good and is a lot of fun to operate," says Cafourek. "It has a total of 16 different valves that can be used at different times. There's also a relief valve to adjust spray pressure.

"I have quick couplers between the trailer-mounted sprayer and the 25-gal. tank, so it takes only about one minute to unhook the trailer-mounted sprayer. It works better than a rear-mount boom because cemeteries have a lot of trees and grave stones, and I would get a sore neck from having to turn around all the time. The boom rides only about 12 in. off the ground, which minimizes drift.

"I chose the Hypro pump because it's a high pressure, low volume pump. I crank the throttle on the tractor to adjust pressure."

The tractor was originally equipped with a 14 hp Wisconsin engine which was worn out when Cafourek bought it. He replaced it with an 11 hp Briggs & Stratton. It worked fine on flat land but coming out of road ditches it didn't have enough power. So he put in a 17 hp Kohler engine, which works fine. He had to lengthen the frame by 10 in. in order to fit the new engine in.

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Sloped cut through creek banks angles down through water. Sides of creek bank and creek bottom are underlaid with rocks so Phillips can drive through without sinking in.

Low-Tech Creek Crossing Has Lasted For 40 Years

Forty years ago Doug Phillips' grandfather found a low-tech way to cross a creek that splits their farm.

The drive-through crossing eliminates a 4-mile trip to get to the portion of their farm on the other side of the creek.

The crossing simply consists of a sloped cut through the creek banks that angles down to the creek. The sides of the creek bank and

the creek bottom are underlaid with rocks so Phillips can drive through with heavy tractors, grain wagons and combines without sinking in, no matter what time of year it is.

Phillips says the creek crossing has required minimal maintenance over the years.

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"Mightybag" works off a standard air compressor to lift loads up to 8,000 lbs.

"Lifting Bag" Works Where Hydraulic Jacks Don't

"Our new general purpose lifting bag has a wider footprint than a conventional jack so it isn't as likely to sink down in sand or mud. When not in use, it folds to only 2 inches thick," says Alford Main, Mainline PSL Inc., Springtown, Texas.

The "Mightybag" measures 17 in. in diameter and is made from a soft, pliable Kevlar and urethane material that gets almost as hard as a rock when the bag is inflated. It comes in a kit that includes a carrying case, 10-ft. hose, a pre-set 40 psi non-adjustable regulator to prevent overinflating, and a 60 psi gauge to test the regulator. It works off any standard air compressor that delivers 250 psi or less (a 12-volt compressor that hooks up to a vehicle's battery can also be used). A 1/4-in. NPT threaded male connection on the bag hooks up to the compressor air hose. The bag can lift loads up to 8,000 lbs. to a maximum of 3 in. high. It will lift 2,000 lbs. up to 17 in. high.

Main says customers have found many different uses for the bag.

"One rancher uses the bag on back of his pickup with a self-loading round bale fork that mounts on the rear bumper. He inflates the bag to force the fork out to lift the bale



Lifting bag comes in a kit that includes a carrying case, 10-ft. hose, regulator to prevent overinflating, and a 60 psi gauge.

off the ground. To unload the bale he simply lets the air out of the bag. There's no need for hydraulics at all.

"One fire department used the bag to lift a tractor off a farmer involved in a rollover accident."

The bag lift kit sells for \$365 plus S&H. A one-time, one-year replacement warranty is available and sells for \$139.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alford Main, Mainline PSL Inc., P.O. Box 489, Springtown, Texas 76082 (ph 877 644-4892 or 817 595-1138; email: alford@mightybag.com; website: www.mightybag.com).



Vernon Harra makes king-size quilts, often with a Deere theme.

Retired Farmer Sews John Deere Quilts

While some people might consider quilting "woman's work," it doesn't bother devoted quilter Vernon W. Harra, Spring Hill, Kansas, who lives near his mom. "I've been around quilting my whole life," he says.

Since retiring, Harra has had time to make king-size quilts. "I can usually sew one up and cut it out in two or three days," he says.

Harra creates a lot of Deere-themed quilts because his family is into farming and the material is easier to find. Using the internet, especially eBay, he's able to locate a variety of materials.

Harra also computerizes embroidery on quilted material. He makes custom quilts for people. For example, he can make other tractor-themed quilts - such as an Allis Chalmers or Case IH.

"Sewing and watching them come together," he says is his favorite part of quilting. "It's kind of an artistic thing."

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