

They Turn Walls Into Gardens

You can plant a garden on a wall, inside or outside, with a living wall kit from Elevated Landscape Technologies (ELT).

"We sell retail kits as well as larger custom-designed systems complete with irrigation and lighting," says Greg Garner, president, ELT. "Our largest so far was for a shopping mall in England. It's around 3,000 square yards in one location."

Benefits include cleaner and fresher air, cooler walls in the summer and warmer walls in the winter, as well as, of course, easily picked fresh produce.

"Our dealers can provide a recommended list of plants, maintenance schedules and likely plant replacement schedules for your area," says Garner. "You need to evaluate available light. Larger systems also require a water source and power. You may also need to evaluate the load bearing capacity of the wall or floor."

Residential retail kits are much smaller.

A Living Wall Single Kit is 31 in. high by 22 in. wide by 6 in. deep. It's priced at \$395 and ready to go, complete with a cedar stand, manual irrigation system and instructions. A 59-in. tall Double Kit is priced at \$537.99. All you need to add is soil, plants and water.

For suggestions on a do-it-yourself wall gardens, visit the Gardening Tips 'n' Ideas website. It offers links to several different types of on-the-wall growing systems at gardeningtipsnideas.com/2008/07/starting_a_diy_vertical_garden.html.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elevated Landscape Technologies Inc. (ELT), 245 King George Road, Suite #319, Brantford, Ont., Canada N3R 7N7 (ph 519 458-8380; or 866 306-7773; info@elteasygreen.com; www.eltlivingwalls.com) or Patrick Blanc, Vertical Garden; (info@murvegetalpatrickblanc.com; www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com).



Residential living wall kit (left) comes with a cedar stand and manual irrigation system. Custom-designed systems can be adapted to a variety of structures.



Build Your Own Gatling Gun

You can pump out up to 600 rounds a minute with an 1800's style Gatling gun from RG-G, Inc. The half-size design uses 50-round clips of .22-caliber ammunition fired by a battery of 10 rotating barrels.

"I just like taking mine out and firing it," explains Paul Moore, designer and builder of the gun. "Sometimes people thinking of buying one will stop by, and we'll set it up and fire off a clip or two."

Moore, an engineer and machinist by trade, fell in love with Gatling guns while watching cowboy movies as a kid. Years later, he built his first one from scratch, relying on pictures of different models introduced in the late 1800's.

"I realized a set of blueprints were needed, so I disassembled the one I had built and drew them up," he recalls.

For many years he built and sold fully assembled and partially completed versions of the guns in addition to parts and plans. To-

day he only sells the parts and plans.

"My guns use the original gravity-fed, in-feed design," says Moore. "The in-feed jams up easily, and then it has to be reset. It's just the way the original design works."

Selling the kits and plans ensures that buyers will understand and be able to fix the guns themselves. Kits consist of all hardware needed (screws, nuts, bolts, bushings, gears, springs and bearings) as well as rifled barrel liners and ground firing pins. Brass and steel parts that need to be machined are also included. The only raw materials missing are some parts for the carriage and yoke mount.

The smaller caliber dramatically reduces the amount of steel and brass needed. This cuts the full-size gun's 350 lbs. to only 55 lbs. for the half-size version. Finished size is 3 ft. long by 2 ft. tall.

These kits aren't for the average person, emphasizes Moore, as they require basic

mill and lathe work to complete. "I recommend these guns only be attempted by someone with experience, like a retired machinist," he says. "I can only turn out about three a year. Working steadily on one, it will take about 600 hours to complete. Some customers have also successfully modified our plans to produce full-size versions"

Even though the difficulty in completing a gun limits the market, Moore says he has sold more than 500 kits and some 8,000 sets of blue prints over the past 18 years. The kit sells for \$719, and the fully finished gun, when formerly. Plans and a CD of 3-D images of each part and assembly are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RG-G, Inc., P.O. Box 935, Trinidad, Colo. 81082 (ph/fax 719 404-3782; paulmoore@rmi.net; www.gatlingguns.net).



Half-size 1800's-style Gatling gun uses 50-round clips of .22-caliber ammunition, fired by a battery of 10 rotating barrels.

Hammer Collector Is Always Looking For "One More"

What started as a quest searching for one unusual hammer, resulted in a collection of more than 1,400 hammers for Dale G. Palmer. About 20 years ago the Alba, Penn., man set out to find a hammer with the family's name on it. He had remembered that his father had a hammer made by the Palmer Hammer Co. As he searched at flea markets, he found other interesting hammers that he purchased - usually for \$1 or less. About 20 hammers later, he found a Palmer hammer without a handle and purchased it for 50 cents.

"The guy asked if I collected hammers and I said, 'yes,'" Palmer recalled. As he walked away he heard the vendor tell others, "He collects hammers."

And so it came to be.

In the beginning, Palmer had no problem finding 100 different hammers a year to add to his collection - most of them inexpensively. He purchased books that showed all the companies that made hammers from the late 1800's into the 20th Century.

"Many hammers were made for a special purpose," Palmer says. "I don't know what some of them were made for."

He's collected hammers used by blacksmiths, silversmiths, bricklayers, shoemak-

ers, farriers and factory workers, for example.

He has branding hammers used to mark the ends of logs sent down the river to a sawmill. Unfortunately, dishonest loggers would sometimes cut off the end of the log and mark it with their own brand.

Palmer's prize hammer is a "goats head" hammer that was a bonus inside Gold Medal flour in the 1920's. It seems the problem of men not putting hammers back in their place is an age-old problem. The ornate hammer was designed for the woman of the house.

Another woman's hammer is also special to Palmer. When he was installing vinyl windows for a customer, he spied a small ball-peen hammer on the garage workbench. The owner said she used it during WWII to work on her machine at a candy factory. It had her initials on it. Palmer told her he'd love to buy it if she ever wanted to sell it.

When he finished up the job, he found the hammer on the seat of his pickup.

Palmer enjoys sharing his hammers and their stories with others, and over the years he's struggled with the best way to display them. Recently he fitted a 32-ft. trailer with display panels. It holds only about half of his collection so he plans to build another



Dale Palmer has more than 1,400 different hammers in his collection. They date from the late 1800's into the 20th Century.

one soon.

"I want people to be able to take the hammers down and feel them in their hands," Palmer says. People are fascinated by his collection when he takes it to old-timer events, and he always learns a few things.

For example, he learned one of his hammers was a turpentine hammer used to make a groove on trees to collect turpentine.

Another crowd pleaser is a bowling ball-size head with a handle.

"A 100-year-old man said he thought people carried it in a buggy and used it to keep the horse from walking off," Palmer says.

Though it's getting more difficult to find hammers he doesn't have, Palmer, 61, sees many in his books he would like to have, and

he plans to continue collecting. Every time an article appears about his collection, he gets new leads. When he was photographed with a double-claw hammer in a newspaper article, for example, he received a call from a couple in their 90's who said they had a double-claw hammer and asked him to visit. Though they didn't sell him the hammer, Palmer enjoyed the visit he would never have had if he didn't collect hammers.

"It's a sickness," he laughs. "I have a friend who said he wasn't sure if I'm crazy about hammers or a crazy man with a lot of hammers."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale G. Palmer, P.O. Box 19, Alba, Penn. 16910 (ph 570 673-8871 or 570 905-4685).