

## Simple Solution Wipes Out Mosquitoes

The Skeeterbag looks too simple to work, it's just a bag on a fan, but its inventor, Sid McCarty, believes in simplicity and says it really works.

McCarty raises puppies and nursery trees on his Micanopy, Fla. property, which also happens to be "blessed" with lots of mosquitoes.

During an especially bad mosquito season a few years ago, when the biting insects made life miserable for humans and covered puppies' heads with bites, McCarty tried several different mosquito traps on the market. None of them worked.

He finally hit on the idea of duct-taping mosquito netting to the front of a 20-in. box fan. He set the back of the fan near the dogs on the porch. In the morning, there were thousands of mosquitoes in the netting. After refining the design, he put the Skeeterbag on the market.

Rods at the top and bottom of the nylon net bag hook between the plastic grill and metal box of a fan. Most 20-in. fans work, but McCarty suggests using high volume or premium fans and avoiding ones that have screws on the corners, as the bag doesn't fit well on them.

"Locate them so they are out of the weather, but close to where animals are living and especially where they are sleeping. Animals figure it out and move to the fan," McCarty says. "When you're

having a picnic, stay within 10 ft. of the fan."

One fan will cover about 1/2 acre. Since mosquitoes seem to stay in certain zones, McCarty has fans set up in his backyard and front yard and one on the side.

"When you watch them, it's like the mosquitoes sense the breeze is a free ride, and they head right for it," McCarty says. "At first it catches a zillion of them. After about a week it drops way off."

"One thousand mosquitoes weigh one gram after they are dried out," he says. "When they're really bad you can catch 30,000 a night."

During mosquito season, he averages about 10,000 mosquitoes a week. He dumps the bags weekly or when the ball of dead mosquitoes is the size of a pancake. Simply unhook part of the screen and let the fan blow them away.

McCarty says he hoses the bag down occasionally for a more thorough cleaning.

He leaves the fans running all the time — he calculates it costs \$1.50 to \$2 a month/fan. He sells Skeeterbags for \$19.95 apiece through his website.

Besides mosquitoes, Skeeterbag captures no-see-ums, and white flies in greenhouses. Horse owners install them in stables. An added bonus is that the fans also supplement the ventilation.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Skeeterbag, Simonton Farms Inc., 22159 NW 75th Ave. Rd, Micanopy, Florida 32667 (ph 352 812-3351; www.skeeterbag.com).



Skeeterbag consists of mosquito netting attached to front of a 20-in. box fan. Mosquitoes simply get sucked into netting.



Fan should be located close to where animals are living or sleeping, such as these fans mounted outside horse stalls.



Three 6 to 7-in. "spikes" stick up from top of wood block to hold chunks in place for splitting.



## Expert Wood-Splitting Tips

You can take some of the work out of splitting wood with some simple ideas from a Minnesotan who works with wood for a living.

Scott Hendershot is a chainsaw carver and log home builder. His first tip is a method to hold wood blocks in place.

"I screw three 6 to 7-in. screws into the top of my wood-splitting block, about 2 in. apart in a triangle," Hendershot says. "Leave about 1 1/2 in. sticking out, and grind the heads of the screws into points."

Drop the block of wood down hard on the points so it stays in place as you quarter it or split it into kindling. He also uses spikes to hold blocks of wood horizontally when he wants to make wood shavings for starting fires by cutting along the grain of the wood with a chainsaw.

"You just have to be careful you don't cut too far and hit the spikes," Hendershot says. "When you've cut all you want, just turn the block upright and split the rest of it."

His final tip regards splitting technique, to avoid getting the ax stuck.

"It's not about how hard you hit. It's



Spikes also hold blocks of wood horizontally when using a chainsaw to make wood shavings for starting fires.

about how you hit," he says. "Just as the ax hits the block and goes in 1/4 to 1/2 in., flip the ax sideways like it's prying the wood."

Think of that motion and practice, he suggests, and wood splitting will be a lot easier.

"One more thing," Hendershot adds. "For safety, make sure you put a block of wood over the spikes when you're done splitting wood for the day."

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Fertilizer applicator uses a plastic funnel that's screwed to a 1-in. plastic pipe, with a shut-off valve about 16 in. from the top. It holds 1 to 1 1/2 gal. of fertilizer.



## Stand-Up Fertilizer Applicator

Carson Mixon's garden plants don't "feel the burn" anymore. Neither does Mixon's back, even after fertilizing a 1/2-acre garden and all the trees and flowers in his yard. With his homemade granular fertilizer distributor, he can accurately place fertilizer next to plants without it touching and burning them. And the 52-in. long tool allows the 5-ft. 11-in. Hortense, Ga., gardener to fertilize without ever bending over.

Mixon had his first unit made at a metal shop. It worked well but was a little heavy for his wife, Mabel. His latest model is made from pvc so it's very easy to handle.

"It has a plastic funnel that holds 1 to 1 1/2-gallons of fertilizer," Mixon says. He screwed the funnel to 1-in. plastic pipe with a shut-off valve about 16 in. from the top. At the bottom, he attached a 45-degree elbow with a stainless steel guard tab screwed on.

The guard tab provides precise control of fertilizer placement by stopping the fertilizer from shooting out and hitting plants.

He also added a hook at the top of the funnel to secure it when filling with fertilizer.

"I haven't sold any," Mixon says. "I just made them for myself. If someone's interested in producing it, just give me a call."

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Unit allows Mixon to accurately place fertilizer without having to bend over.