



Mini hopper on Bush Hog mower deck holds about 10 lbs. of alfalfa and clover seed.



As seed falls through hole in deck, spring-loaded tines bolted to mower's flail arms work it into the ground.

He Overseeded Hay Fields With Bush Hog Mower

Richard Chambers got extra duty out of his field mower Hog this past summer. When he wanted to boost production in a grassy hay field, he hit it with a broadleaf herbicide and then overseeded clover and alfalfa with his Bush Hog mower.

"I wanted to get some legumes mixed in with the grass," he says. "By this fall, I could see both alfalfa and clover coming up."

All it took was a few simple attachments and a little time. Chambers bolted spring-loaded tines to the flail arms to get the scaring action.

"On rougher ground, you could attach diamond harrow tines instead," he says.

The tines scratched up the surface, spread out any trash, and thinned out the tufts of grass. To spread the seed, Chambers took advantage of an existing hole just behind the gearbox on the deck of the mower. He strapped a 7-in. diameter, 12-in. tall metal container over the hole. A sieve at the bottom of the container drops seed under the deck.

"When the mower is operating, the vibration is enough to shake the seed through the sieve," says Chambers. "It's critical to have

the right size sieve holes. I got lucky with mine."

The mini seed hopper holds about 10 lbs. of alfalfa and clover seed. Chambers estimates he applies about 2 lbs. per acre. As the seed falls through the deck, the flail arm and tines scatter it and work it into the dirt. To get a heavier seeding rate, he simply makes a second pass.

Chambers is satisfied with the results. He likes the idea that removing a few bolts restores the mower to its original purpose.

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When mower is operating, the vibration is enough to shake seed through sieve of bottom of mini hopper.

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Man-powered sickle mower is designed to cut grass, grain crops and even brambles and light brush.

Push-Type Sickle Mower

The first man-powered sickle mower will soon be on the market. After a year of testing on his hobby farm, Paul Rizzo is going into production on his unique mower. The push mower is designed to cut grass, grain crops and even brambles and light brush.

"It has scissoring action that really takes a bite out of grasses and wheat," he says. "Depending on the density of the stem, it can handle light brush too."

Rizzo designed and built his YardSickle with the help of his father, Olympio. He knew the drive system would be key. It had to be able to produce the required torque and blade speed. His prototype proved out the transmission and general design and established potential customer interest.

"I had enough positive feedback that I formed a company and moved ahead to produce it," he says.

However, the prototype weighed in at close to 50 lbs. and would have cost several hundred dollars to produce. After testing and making a number of refinements, Rizzo now has the YardSickle under 20 lbs. He hopes to get the final price under \$175. With the help of a friend who owns a CNC-controlled cutting assembly, Rizzo is now set up to produce the new, improved version.



"The sickle's scissoring action really takes a bite out of grasses and wheat," says inventor Paul Rizzo.

"We will be producing the new version in December," he says. "It will be a two-part frame so the handlebars can fold and be adjusted," he says.

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Portable "garden sink" makes it easy Ken Carpenter wash vegetables outside before bringing them into his house.

Portable "Garden Sink"

"I put together a portable garden sink so I can wash vegetables outside before bringing them into our house. Both the water and dirt go right back into our garden," says Ken Carpenter, Grangeville, Idaho.

He bought an old kitchen sink at a second hand store for a few dollars. He built a wooden frame in the shape of a wheelbarrow and screwed the sink on top of it. The wheelbarrow rides on an 8-in. high rubber wheel and has handles that measure about 7 ft. long. He also added a female coupler to the bottom of the faucet so he can hook up a garden hose to it.

"I have several faucets around my garden and I can hook the sink up to any of them," says Carpenter. "I use it on all my root crops including beets, potatoes, and carrots. I added a length of L-shaped pvc pipe to the sink's drain so my feet don't get wet while I'm washing vegetables. I stand in front of the sink and the water drains out the back. At the end of the growing season I just disconnect the hose and roll the sink into our tool shed."

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Barrel Trap Catches Thieving Raccoons

If your live trap isn't working to catch pesky raccoons, Mike Toppen suggests slipping the trap inside a plastic barrel. That's what he did when raccoons were getting into his sweet corn. With just the live trap, he had a lot of misses. The raccoon played with the bait from the outside of the trap, or wasn't in the trap far enough to get caught when the door shut. In the morning, Toppen would find the trap snapped, but empty.

"I haven't had one misfire," he says, since putting the trap in a barrel. He laid 4 by 4 timbers under each side so the barrel won't roll. The raccoon has to go in to get to the bacon grease, tuna juice or other bait that Toppen uses.

"I got 6 or 8 raccoons right away and didn't have any problems with them getting into my



To keep raccoons from snatching bait, Mike Toppen slips through this side of trap inside a plastic barrel.

corn after that," he says.

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