

Water “Stinger” Plants Trees Fast

Gary Cammack has a slick way to plant trees for wildlife habitat and to stabilize cut banks. He uses water pressure and a device he calls a Waterjet Stinger to drill a hole in the soil. He then inserts a willow or cottonwood “stick” harvested from thick stands of established willow and cottonwood trees.

“Normally it’s nearly impossible to get these trees established in heavy gumbo soil,” says Cammack. “With 200 lbs. water pressure, I can blow a hole 4 to 6 ft. deep in the heaviest gumbo in less than a minute. Doing it this way, we’ve had a 50 to 60 percent success rate.”

Cammack suggests the success has to do with the depth of the hole that gets the sticks into subsoil moisture. He likes to have about 3 ft. of stick above ground and at least 4 ft. in the ground. Shallower holes would dry out before the sticks could root.

“We harvest dormant willows and cottonwood from what we call a dog-hair stand,” explains Cammack. “We clip the branches off to get a 6 to 8-ft. stick, 3/4 in. to an inch in diameter at its bottom end. We clip the top at about 3/8 in. diameter.”

Cammack had assistance from the local NRCS in developing the Waterjet Stinger. It uses a gas-powered, high-pressure pump. The Stinger component is a 6-ft. hollow pipe with a T-handle and a stainless steel nozzle. The unit is effective and fast.

“Four of us planted 200 trees in an area in a couple hours one Sunday afternoon,” recalls Cammack. “We went back to one area two years later, and there were enough branches and leaves that we found bird nests.”

Cammack and his family had no problem finding components as they operate a ranch supply business. He says they can fabricate Waterjet Stingers for others, or he is glad to answer any questions about making and using one. Detailed information about fabricating and using a Waterjet Stinger is also available from the NRCS.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cammack Ranch Supply, P.O. Box 100, Union Center, S. Dak. 57785 (ph 605 985-5591; crsuc@yahoo.com; www.cammackranchsupply.com; http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/pubs/idpmcarwproj17.pdf).



Gary Cammack uses water pressure and a device he calls a Waterjet Stinger to “drill” a hole in the soil. He then inserts a willow or cottonwood “stick” to plant trees.



“Tough Tracker” Helps Stop Equipment Theft

Just as planes have “black boxes” to store information, farmers can install Tough Tracker boxes to keep track of expensive tractors and equipment that might get stolen. The units house a power supply and tracking technology accessed through satellite communication by smart phones and other computer devices. When the equipment is moved, an alert is sent via email or text message. The British product should be available in the U.S. within a few months.

Made of a stronger-than-steel composite used in Formula 1 cars, the patented housing is welded directly to equipment.

It’s indestructible as shown on a YouTube video of a man with a mall unable to smash it.

“The Tough Tracker was originally developed for the waste industry to enable assets to be easily tracked and monitored,” explains Cat Webb, marketing coordinator for Spaldings Ltd., a U.K. company that distributes the device for Tough Tracker Ltd. “As such it needed to have a self-contained power supply and be very secure and vandal-proof. The sophisticated software and unique features also mean that it’s particularly suited to agriculture, local authorities and the

transport industry.”

Customers typically install the Tough Tracker in a visible place as a deterrent to thieves. It can be installed on tractors, trailers, fuel tankers, etc.

“Most customers will purchase multiple units,” Webb says. Besides the cost of the unit, there’s an annual satellite subscription fee.

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Tough Tracker box alerts owner via email or text message whenever equipment is moved.

Portable Deer Stand Made From Old Feed Grinder

Don Keen’s old Artsway feed grinder has found a new life as a portable deer stand.

The “feed grinder deer stand” has windows on 3 sides and a door on front, with a metal roof on top. It’s equipped with a table, bench, bar stool and carpeting on the floor.

“It makes a great hunting spot,” says the Verndale, Minn., farmer. “I can move it wherever I want and stay warm and comfortable. The windows slide up out of the way for shooting.”

The deer stand sets on top of the feed grinder about 10 ft. off the ground. It measures 5 ft. sq. by 7 ft. high and is made from 3/4-in. thick plywood over a frame made from 2 by 6’s. “The top of the deer stand is 17 ft. off the ground. I was worried it might tip over, so I added a 12-ft. wide axle and wheels off an old Keewawee disk to the front of the frame,” says Keen. “The axle is welded to a pair of channel iron brackets that bolt onto the frame.”

A pair of 1 1/4-in. dia. hinged pipes along the sides of the grinder serve as stabilizers. The pipes are hinged so they can be swung down to the ground when stationary.

A metal ladder runs from the grinder’s tongue up to the deer stand and is braced at the middle by a set of diagonal metal rails. There’s a tube railing to hold onto along one side of the ladder, and a grab handle next to the deer stand’s door.

To attach the deer stand to the top of the grinder, Keen welded 4 uprights on the bin and lag bolted them to the stand’s frame. Cables also come down from each corner of



Don Keen converted an old Artsway feed grinder into a portable deer stand by building an enclosure that mounts on top of it 10 ft. off the ground.

the stand and attach to the grinder’s frame.

“It turned out great, and I spent less than \$25 to build it,” says Keen. “I pull it with a medium size 4-wheeler. I watch where the deer are running and then go out and park it. After a while the deer get used to it.”

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John Humeniuk made this deer stand by stacking tractor tires and partially filling them with dirt and straw.

Old Tires Make Great Deer Stand

When a friend challenged John Humeniuk to find a use for some old tractor tires, he did. He made a deer stand.

“It started out as a joke, but they work really well,” says Humeniuk.

Humeniuk hauled the five 18.4 by 38 tires out to a likely spot on his farm. With the help of a friend, he stacked three of the tires, filling them with dirt as they went.

“We cut chunks of poplar in 18-in. lengths to hold the beads up and then filled them with dirt,” recalls Humeniuk. “After we had three of them full, we laid a piece of plywood over the top one and set two more in place and stuffed them with straw.”

Humeniuk and his friends set a ladder against the outside of the tires to climb up and over. Once inside, they are protected from the

wind and have a 360° view. A visitor from Florida liked it so much this past fall that he wouldn’t leave, even when it started sleeting and freezing. Humeniuk says his clothes froze to the tires before he would climb out.

“It’s like shooting out of a turret,” says Humeniuk.

However, that too may change. Perhaps because of the frozen tires, he’s considering a change.

“We’re talking about filling the last two tires up with dirt and putting a little shed on top,” says Humeniuk.

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