



Alvin Wittmer's 3-pt. mounted sprayer comes with a 12 or 18-ft. boom that can be extended in 18 or 36-in. increments, and filled with an 80 or 35-gal. tank.

“Customizable” Small Acreage Sprayer

Alvin Wittmer couldn't find a small acreage sprayer that had all the options he wanted, so he built a high tech model himself.

“I wanted something more versatile than the models that I found on the market. I also wanted something with a folding boom so I could spray in small areas,” says the Dayton, Va., fruit tree grower. “It works great for spraying everything from row crops to pastures, lawns, and fence lines.”

The 3-pt. mounted sprayer is available with a 12 or 18-ft. boom that can be extended in 18 or 36-in. increments, and with an 80 or 35-gal. tank. A funnel-shaped poly tank leads down to the drain and line strainer.

“We call it a ‘total drain tank’ because it lets you keep spraying until the tank is completely empty, even on sidehills,” says Wittmer. “With a flat bottomed tank, the chemical ends up in a corner of the tank where it can't get sucked up. Draining the tank completely is especially important for orchard growers, who have to use expensive chemicals that cost up to \$50 per ounce. They don't want to leave one

or two gal. in the tank when they're done spraying. Using up all the chemical also makes cleanup and maintenance a simple job.”

The boom quick-taches to the sprayer frame and can be equipped with many attachments, such as row shields for spraying produce rows and boomless nozzle shields. The U-shaped nozzle shields mount at both ends of the boom and keep the nozzles from accidentally catching on fences. “The shields just swing back out of the way,” says Wittmer.

A pto-operated pressure washer kit can be mounted on the sprayer's frame, allowing you to use the sprayer to wash farm equipment. It sells for \$1,300.

The sprayer can be easily converted to a boomless model by unscrewing a wing nut and lifting the boom off. The hoses can be quickly disconnected by turning a knob.

The sprayer comes with an adjustable nozzle hand gun with a 10-ft. hose that you can use from the tractor seat. “Some hobby farmers just buy the sprayer frame and use



A pto-operated pressure washer kit including a high pressure pump and spray wand is available, allowing you to use the sprayer to wash farm equipment.



The operator uses a hand wand to spray fruit trees. Close-up photo shows sprayer controls, including pressure gauge and on-off pump switch.

the hand wand as they drive along fence rows to control weeds,” says Wittmer.

The sprayer comes with a magnet-mounted remote on-off section control box that operates off the tractor's battery. “The control box can be mounted on the tank or on one of the tractor fenders, allowing the operator to turn the boom on or off without leaving the

tractor seat,” says Wittmer.

A standard sprayer equipped with an 80-gal. tank and an 18-ft. boom sells for about \$1,700.

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Bob Andrews put together this backhoe-mounted jackhammer for making road repairs in rural Alaska.



Jackhammer bolts onto backhoe's bucket and operates off a compressor.

Backhoe-Mounted Jackhammer Helps Fix Rural Road

“Living in rural Alaska, we're pretty much on our own when it comes to maintaining local roads. So we're fortunate to have Bruce Dunbar, a retired heavy equipment operator, living on our road,” says Bob Andrews, of Hollis, who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a backhoe-mounted jackhammer that Andrews put together for making road repairs.

“Bruce tries to keep our road in the best possible condition. Recently, he decided to remove an unwieldy hump in the road. Gathering a jackhammer, a compressor and a few semi-willing neighbors, Bruce decided we were all a bit too old to be spending long hours jackhammering. So he designed and built a mounting system that lets us use the jackhammer on our community backhoe, and

instantly the job became doable and even enjoyable. I think it was American ingenuity at its finest.

“By the way, the community backhoe is another project of Bruce's. After 40 years of neglect and sitting outside in the weather, the backhoe was in pretty sad shape. Many people, including myself, were ready to junk it. Bruce spent a few months rebuilding and refurbishing everything from the brakes to the throttle, hydraulics, controls, lights, gauges and even gave the machine a new coat of paint. Today we have a very serviceable machine.”

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Some of the best new ideas we hear about are “made it myself” inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our website at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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