



Electric-Powered Vegetable Picking Cart

A North Carolina inventor has come up with what may be the ultimate machine for comfortably picking vegetable crops - a low-riding, 3-wheel electric-powered cart.

"I worked on it for six or seven years before perfecting it two years ago," says Russell P. Jones, Raleigh, N.C. "It makes tough jobs fun, virtually eliminating backaches. It would be especially helpful for the elderly or anyone with back problems."

Jones' cart is powered by two 12-volt Delco batteries. It'll run up to 72 hours before requiring a recharge. Recharging takes three of four hours with a standard 10-amp battery charger.

The batteries drive a 1/3 hp electric motor that draws 1.8 amps, and a gear box with 275:1 ratio. They chain drive the cart's drive axle, which Jones made from a lawn mower axle shortened on both ends and fitted with a 1 3/4-in. dia. drive sprocket that accommodates a #35 roller chain.

The cart is 22-in. wide, 73 in. long, and 17 in. high in back and has a frame made out of 1 in. sq. tubing. Rear axles are fitted with 4.00 by 8-in. tires. There's a single 3.50 by 6-in. tire on front. The cart runs just 5 in. off the ground. The operator sits in a lawn mower seat which is adjustable on the frame to accommodate operators of varying heights. Vegetable containers are placed on a 14 by 22 in. plywood deck in front of the operator.

The front caster wheel is fitted with a wagon handle used for steering, and to pull the cart. By turning the handle a half turn, you can lock the wheel into position for



running straight down the row, leaving your hands free for picking.

Jones' cart runs on 12 or 24 volts, either of which is selected by flipping a toggle switch on the motor to the right or left of center, respectively. (The center position shuts power off.) Operating on 12 volts, top speed is 3 ft., 6 in. per minute. Operating on 24 volts, top speed is 6 ft., 8 in. per minute.

He'd like to find a manufacturer and/or marketer.

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Gas-Fired Heater Warms Winter Cab

"After adding a cab to the small yard tractor we used to clear snow, the next thing I wanted to do was to add heat," says Darry Markle, Peace River, Alberta.

"I didn't think the tractor's small diesel engine would produce enough hot wa-

ter for a conventional type heater, so I looked for other sources. I settled on a gas-fired heater from a 1973 Volkswagen van. I bought the heater at a junkyard for just \$40. It puts out a lot of heat, has it's own fuel pump, and is very compact. All that's re-

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Mark Newhall, Editor



Powered Trailer Turns Tractor Into 4-WD

You'll like this powered trailer a Danish farmer built from old tractor parts to give him extra power and flotation for early spring field work.

"I pick rocks by hand in the early spring when it's often very wet," says Jens E. Andersen, Kerteminde, Denmark. "The trailer has zero rolling resistance and effectively gives my tractor the benefits of 4-WD. With dual 8.3 by 24-in. tires on the tractor and singles on the trailer I can barely see the tread pattern on even the softest ground when fully loaded. Best of all, it works in all forward and reverse gears."

The powered trailer has load carrying capacity of 2,500 lbs. Anderson built it out of parts from a tractor identical to the one

he pulls it with (a Porsche Junior) that he bought for spare parts. That way, rear end of the tractor and the drive axle on the trailer are identical.

He turned the rear end on the trailer around so the pto shaft faces the pto on back of the tractor. A telescoping shaft connects the two.

"I'm very happy with it," says Andersen. "It gets a lot of attention at shows I take it to."

Out-of-pocket expenses were about \$350 (U.S.).

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quired is a mounting bracket and a gasoline tank.

"With the help of a friend, we installed the unit inside a metal toolbox - with breather holes drilled in the side - and mounted the box on the side of the frame. The toolbox protects the heater from the elements and makes it easy to dismount the heater in summer. A small plastic gas can sits on top of the toolbox, held tightly in

place by an old seat belt that runs through the handle and down around the toolbox.

"This turned out to be an economical way to heat our cab so I can now clear snow in comfort even in the coldest weather. The same idea would work on any tractor or other machine."

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