

Planting Tire Planter

“Ideas are like stars. They fall from the sky, they run 'round your head—they litter your sleep as they beckon, they'd teach you to fly without wires or thread...” — Mary Chapin Carpenter

Making the kind of outside tire planter pictured on the contents page of our Dec/Jan 2010 issue requires some brawn along with a tiny bit of brains. However, if you're short on brawn, simply stack two tires (the same size) without rims on top of each other and wire them together so they can't shift around. (This is also a great way to provide water to farm animals. Simply plop a water bucket down inside, where it can't be knocked over.) Now, back to the two-tires-stacked-together planter idea. Put a large plate, garbage can lid, or some other kind of “discard” in the bottom to stop the dirt from washing out but still provide drainage. Voila!

The idea for the kind of planter we featured in the magazine comes from my father. He made dozens of them during his lifetime. Take a worn-out tire that is still on its rim, preferably a 2-ply. Measure 2" out from the rim on one side and draw a line all the way around.

Draw another line all the way around about 3" closer in toward the center of the tire. Now, draw a zigzag pattern back and forth between the two circumference lines. Drill a 1/4" hole at each point and then cut from one hole to the next using a good utility knife. As if that doesn't require a fair amount of brawn, here's where plenty of brawn and some cooperation come in. Set the tire center on top of a 5-gallon bucket that you've turned upside down. Gather 4–5 friends (wearing gloves) around the tire, circling it. Have everyone grasp the cut edge and turn it downward toward the ground, essentially turning the tire inside out. The smaller, bottom half will pop up on its own.

