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85. © Custom two-stage "scalping" auger bit for large-container plantings. Kloetzel, S. Native Plants Journal 10(2):107-109. 2009.

Custom two-stage "scalping" auger bit for large-container plantings

| Steve Kloetzel

ABSTRACT

I provide details on a customized auger attached to a skid steer, which I use in one automated action to dig holes and to create a scalp and water basin for large-container plants. For less than US$ 1000, I modified a John Deere auger bit and have since used it to dig more than 12 000 holes in a variety of sites, with only minor maintenance needed.

All photos by Steve Kloetzel.

Figure 1. Ready for planting! Custom-built scalping auger mounted on an ASV PT80 rubber-tracked skid steer.

After 15 y of hand-digging and hand-scalping for restoration plantings, and trying various hand-augers with limited results, I was convinced there was room for improvement in efficiency and accuracy when working with large-container materials. Also, many of the riparian and wetland sites I work on are easily accessible with relatively small "heavy equipment," such as tracked skid steers, so I knew there had to be a better way, or at least an easier one!

Two y ago I had designed, and was preparing to install, a large riparian woody plant revegetation project in Montana. The project partners had contracted for 9000 plants custom-grown in Stuewe Tall-One Treepots (Stuewe and Sons Inc, Corvallis, Oregon). This container measures 10 cm square x 36 cm deep (2870 ml; 4 x 4 x 14 in [175 in³]). Because I was older and wiser, I knew I didn't want to have to hand-dig

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