

the tractor start. All this happened with less than 600 hours on the tractor. The company wouldn't help pay for the repairs."

**Steven W. Lambright, Union Grove, N.C.:** "My father-in-law has 3 of the 300 series Massey tractors and they're all kind of doggish, but the worst part is the transmission and dry clutch. The transmission on the 383 model stripped out second gear at about 2,500 hours, and the 399 model had something go through it which chipped one of the gears. But the 393 model was the worst because the reverse gear ground off at less than 2,000 hours. Also, it seems like all these tractors need to have the clutch changed every 2,000 to 2,500 hours."

**Fred Wheaton, Montour Falls, N.Y.:** "I like the Kwik Whip cart (lukeo@tds.net), which I purchased after reading about it in FARM SHOW. The idea is to clamp a weed eater to the cart and roll it around on wheels."

**James D. Alleckson, Canby, Minn.:** "My 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer is a wonderful vehicle. No problems."

"My Deere 3020 diesel tractor with power-shift transmission has more than 5,000 hours on it with no problems."

**Jerry Mathison, Astoria, S. Dak.:** "I'm well pleased with my Husqvarna 4817 zero turn riding mower equipped with a 17 hp Kohler Command engine. It does a super job of mowing."

"I like my Empire mower deck washer which was previously in FARM SHOW (ph 715 635-8197; www.empirewasher.com). It does a great job of cleaning the deck. It consists of a plastic tube with 3 nozzles and a hose coupler at one end. You connect the washer to a garden hose and slide it all the way under the deck. Then you turn on the water and also turn on the mower. It uses the vortex created by the mower's rotating blades to clean the mower deck."

**Leon Beiler, Narvon, Penn.:** Leon likes a caulking product from Conklin called 360-S urethane sealant (ph 800 888-8838; www.conklin.com). "I was having problems with our skylights leaking water in our home. Finally I contacted a local Conklin dealer and he recommended this sealant. Since then, no more leaks. Works great."

**Barney Brown, Richwood, Ohio:** "My 2007 Billy Goat brush cutter is a quality machine. The 11 hp Honda engine on it is reliable and has plenty of power. It also uses very little fuel."

**Derrick Caisse, Chaplin, Ct.:** Derrick likes his New Holland 1525 tractor. "It's a smaller unit at 35 hp and has performed flawlessly. We have two other tractors that sit idle because this one outperforms both of them. It's our go-to tractor now."

"My Ryobi 4-stroke weed trimmer developed an oil leak almost immediately after I bought it. The company replaced it with a factory refurbished unit, but it doesn't run as good as the original model and now I'm stuck with it."

**Richard Schmid, Rankin, Ill.:** "I've had this tractor for a long time and it has done some heavy pulling," says Richard about his 1986 Case IH 2394 tractor. "This tractor still has enough hydraulic power to run some of the latest model planters. Very few problems."

**William Peters, Coldwater, Mich.:** "My 1972 Deutz 4506 tractor has more than 5,500 hours on it but still runs great and has required only routine maintenance. We use it to pull our finishing mower and also to pull a 6-row corn planter. It's easy on fuel."

"My 2007 Troy Bilt riding mower equipped with a 22 hp engine was one of my worst buys ever. I had two of these mowers and both had problems. I had the first one for 6 weeks

and it wouldn't shut off even after the key was turned off so we had to disconnect the battery. We sent it back twice for repairs but the problem was never fixed. They gave me a new mower but by then it was late fall so we couldn't use it, and then by the time we could use it the warranty had expired."

"The machine only has 35 hours on it and already I've had to replace the variable speed pulley and belt. After that we could only get half the speed out of it, even when we held the accelerator pedal down to the floor. The

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machine's front end is shot, and the wheels flop in the breeze. When the belt pulley was replaced we almost had to take the engine out. This machine should have been painted lemon yellow. We'll never buy a Troy Bilt again."

**Robert Mahaney, Dansville, N.Y.:** "My 2004 Dodge 2500 4-WD pickup was my worst buy. It had a death wobble to it every time I hit a bump. I bought it new along with 10 other new Dodge pickups and 5 Dodge minivans, over a 20-year period. Neither the dealer nor the company would do anything to fix the problem even though the pickup was still under warranty. Now I own a 2008 Ford F-350 pickup, and my wife has a 2007 Toyota van. Problem solved."

**Del Bigelow, Sandy, Utah:** Del's had good luck with his 2001 Dodge 2500 pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel and a 5-speed manual transmission. "It has 125,000 miles on it with absolutely no problems and still has the original battery. I recently made a 1,100-mile trip to Arizona and averaged 23 mpg going 60 to 65 mph. It averages 17 to 18 mpg around town. This pickup has never failed to start, even in temperatures down to 10 degrees below zero."

**Jack H. Walther, Lamoille, Nevada:** "My 1962 Farmall 544 tractor still works as good as new. My 2009 Deere 6400 tractor is also a best buy."

**Blane Cornell, Malta, Mont.:** "I bought a 1993 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer 2 years ago with about 105,000 miles on it. I've since put on another 60,000 miles with only routine maintenance. I've replaced the batteries and unplugged the EGR valve a couple of times. It has a 2-battery system with an inverter."

"My Cummins 6827 electric impact wrench is my worst buy. I tried using it to remove a harmonic balancer bolt on a Toyota, but the bolt wouldn't budge. I had to remove it by hand with a 1/2-in. breaker bar. Then I tried using it to change a tire on a Deere tractor, but it wouldn't work on that either. It's supposed to have 240 ft. lbs. of torque, but it's not even close to that."

**Bibb Mims, Uriah, Ala.:** "We own three Deere 4960 tractors with a total of 8,000 hrs. on them, with very few repairs. These tractors are economical to maintain, and they don't have any electronic controls to go wrong as on the newer tractors."

"I also own two Deere 8420 tractors and two 8520's. They all have push button electronic controls, which I think was a big mistake. We've had lots of trouble with them. Someone needs to make a good manually-controlled big tractor."

**Joe Hinrichs, Glasford, Ill.:** "My Troy-Bilt gas-powered leaf blower-vacuum has a 2-year warranty, but the machine lasted only



This stand of "no mow" grass, planted in poor ground alongside driveway, had not yet been cut at the end of July when this photo was taken.

## "No Mow" Grass Lives Up To Claims

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Pearl's Premium "no mow" grass does what it promises. It grows slowly, then tops out and falls over without matting up. A year ago, I seeded several plots of shade and sun tolerant varieties of the grass. It was planted in very poor soil conditions; yet it emerged and thrived.

One of the claims for the grass is that it seldom needs to be mowed. Here again, we put it to its harshest test. The grass was left uncut until the end of July. At that time two plots were clipped and the remainder left to grow. Grass blades had grown as much as 15 in. in length.

A full month later, the clipped grass had recovered. However, it had grown out only a couple of inches, even though there had been plenty of rain. It's as slow growing as promised.

The sections left uncut have remained essentially unchanged since late July. The grass is no longer than it was then, and it still hasn't collapsed or matted.

Cut Pearl's Premium once or twice a season, or leave it alone throughout the season. Either way, it appears ideal for areas where a grass cover is desired, but a manicured look is not needed. Left to grow, it creates an at-

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Most of the grass was 14 to 15 in. tall but it falls over so, from a distance, it has an attractive appearance.

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