

“No Mow” Grass Starting To Catch On

Sherry Andow-Jansen, Cleveland, Minnesota, says she didn't mow her lawn all year, thanks to her NoMow grass. Neil Diboll usually mows his lawn only once. Both grass researchers hate mowing, and have developed alternatives to the traditional bluegrass lawn.

Andow-Jansen's NoMow is a slow growing, creeping blue grass and centipede grass mix that's available as plugs or seed. It usually grows to about 3 1/2 in. high, though with heavy rains and no mowing, it reached 5 1/2 in. this year. Andow-Jansen, a former engineer, got into grass seed production by doing research at a nearby ag college.

"I developed this variety after 15 or 16 years of cross-breeding grasses," says Andow-Jansen. "I finally developed a short-growing deep-green grass. It is a fairly aggressive grass and likes to spread out. Once it has filled out, it's easy to get a manicured look."

She has sold seed from Mexico to Canada and California to the East Coast.

Neil Diboll, owner of Prairie Nursery, Westfield, Wisconsin, has been offering his brand of limited growth grass for 8 years. He

developed a mix of six fescues, including two creeping fescue varieties. He doesn't recommend them for heavy clays or wet soils. With their deep root systems, they handle drought well, naturally grow slow, and require little or no fertilizer.

"Fescues shouldn't be cut closer than three inches, and if you let them, they grow to five to six inches," says Diboll. "If you want the golf course look, this isn't the product for you, but it's great for low maintenance areas, trail systems or if you just don't like to mow."

He recommends Prairie's No Mow mix for northern US and southern Canada homeowners. He mows once in June to knock back the seed stalk, which can reach 24 inches, but suggests mowing once a month or so, for a cropped look.

Both slow growing varieties do best in full sun, but can handle some shade. Andow-Jansen sells 1,000 NoMow grass plugs, enough to cover 500 to 1,000 square feet of lawn, for \$125. She sells a pound of seed at \$110 to cover 2,500 to 5,000 sq. feet. Diboll suggests 5 lbs. of Prairie's No Mow grass seed per 1,000 square feet at \$5.50 per lb.



Photo courtesy Sherry Andow-Jansen

NoMow is a slow-growing, creeping grass mix that usually grows about 3 1/2 in. high.

All prices include shipping and handling. Prices vary with volume sales.

E-mail: nomowgrass@aol.com; Website: www.nomowgrass.com; or Prairie Nursery Inc., Box 306, Westfield, Wis. 53964 (ph 800 474-9453; fax 608 296-2741; Website: www.prairienursery.com).

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To make this feeder, Gilbert Lang removed the sickles from a couple of Versatile 18-ft. swather headers, then bolted the two heads together.

Swather Heads Make Super Round Bale Feeders

When he switched to big round bales, Gilbert Lang, Tappen, North Dakota, found his old hay feeding racks weren't sturdy enough to hold the bales.

He looked around for materials to make something more substantial and decided to use a couple of Versatile 18-ft. swather headers. "We removed the headers from the swathers and took off the sickles. Then we bolted the two heads together where the sickles had bolted on," he explains.

He braced the ends with angle and straight iron to make them more rigid and to make sure the cows couldn't get their heads caught in them.

Once he had it together, he set the feeder on an old truck frame. "Between the tie rod ends and the axle, we attached a tongue and then welded a piece of flat iron on top of the axle so you can't turn it too short," he says.

The feeder holds three big round bales. It worked so well that Lang made a couple more.

One is built from two 14-ft. heads from pull-type Minneapolis Moline swathers, mounted on a toolbar from an Allis Chalmers 10-ft. chisel plow. The other was made from 15-ft. Versatile swather heads.

Using the same concept, Lang also made a grain and pellet feeder that has a sling on rollers at the bottom, so it can be cleaned out easily. He also made a loose hay feeder with 9-ft. high sides on it. He says pulling the feeders close together in the pasture also makes a great windbreak.

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Swather feeder mounts on old truck frame and holds up to three big round bales.



Designed specifically for utility tractors, "Mighty Mini Clamp" mounts on a front-end loader and can move large stacks of small square bales, as well as other materials.

Mini Clamp Fits Small Tractors

Whenever he has to handle hay bales by hand, Albert Peugh's allergies flare up. Fortunately his father, Dean, is president of Messenger Manufacturing Inc., Klamath Falls, Oregon. To help his son, Dean designed a mini hydraulic bale clamp for utility tractors.

The design is based on a full-sized hay clamp the company has been making for nearly four decades. The original machine, designed by Vern Peugh, Dean's father, also mounts on a front-end loader and can move 8-ft. square stacks of small square bales. Over the years, Dean improved on the design, but the size remains the same.

The new clamp, named the Mighty Mini Clamp, comes in two sizes. The smaller has 36-in. arms that open to a 70-in. width. It clamps down to 30 in. wide which allows it to handle from one to six small square bales at once. The larger one has 48-in. arms that open fully to 72 in. and clamp down to 32 in. It can handle from 2 to 12 little square bales.

Albert Peugh says the Mighty Mini Clamp will handle a lot more than hay. It can be used for other baled materials, like cotton, paper and cardboard. One clamp went to a strawberry nursery where it's mounted on an 80 hp tractor and used to handle bales of sheet plastic.

The Peugh's designed the Mighty Mini so both front forks can be moved hydraulically. That lets them clamp from either direction or both. It can also be fitted with a barrel handling attachment for picking up round items.

The Mighty Mini is designed to fit front-end loaders on 18 hp and larger utility tractors. It sells for about \$3,200.

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Above left photo shows unit with arms that open to a 70-in. width. Unit can also be fitted with a barrel handling attachment (right).