

Pearl's Premium "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 attractive appearance, not wild and scraggly, simply eye-appealing mounds of long, green grass.

Pearl's Premium won the MassChallenge Award for innovations that can make positive societal change. If you cut it only once a month, it stands up as a low-maintenance manicured 3 to 4-in. high



This stand of "no mow" grass, planted in poor ground alongside Ruen's driveway, had not been cut at the end of July when this photo was taken. It forms a good-looking meadow, only 3 to 4 in. high. Most of the grass was 14 to 15 in. tall but it falls over so, from a distance, it has an attractive appearance.



Photos show other examples of low-maintenance Pearl's Premium lawns in the middle of summer. You water to get the lawn established and, due to the 12-in. roots, it seldom or never needs to be watered again. If you cut it only once a month, it stands up as a low-maintenance 3 to 4-in. high lawn.

lawn.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jackson Madnick,

Pearl's Premium Grass, 206 Lake Shore Drive, Wayland, Mass. 01778 (ph 508 653-0800; www.pearlspremium.com).

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Foot-Powered Mini Thresher

A foot-powered thresher is the perfect match for family-sized grain plots or on-farm research plots. Until now, hand threshing was the only alternative for people growing grain in plots too small for a combine.

"Producing small grains such as wheat and oats in 1/2 to 1-acre patches often requires harvesting and threshing by hand," says Jim Smith, at The Back to the Land Store. "These units are much faster and are being made by a Tennessee farmer who is fabricating them in his shop."

The small-scale thresher consists of a foot treadle, an enclosed threshing reel and a winnowing screen. When the treadle is pumped up and down, connecting rods turn

the reel and shake the screen. Grain heads fed into the thresher enclosure are struck by U-shaped beaters mounted on the spinning reel. The grain and trash fall to the vibrating screen. The seed falls through to a sloped discharge chute while other materials slide off.

"Some chaff will fall through the screen too, so the grain will require a final winnowing," says Smith. "The screen will thresh out about a pound of grain per minute on average."

Smith adds that chaff and debris does have to be removed from the screen periodically.

The thresher is priced at \$780. New chain drive and bearings.



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Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Back to the Land Store, 545 Salmon Branch Rd., Erin, Tenn. 37061 (ph 931 764-0034; toll free 866 764-0034; contact@backtotheland.com; www.backtotheland.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 06