

work this little tractor hard but haven't had one problem with it. Everyone should own a tractor that works this good.

"I have a problem with 5-gal. gas cans in general. All the models I've bought in recent years start out okay, but after a couple months they begin to leak whenever I pull out the extension nozzle."

Robert P. Giese, Bedford, Wyo: Robert's happy with his 2000 **Deere** 790 tractor. "No machine is perfect including this tractor, but the company fixed whatever defects the tractor had under warranty. It has about 600 hours on it yet is still worth 80 percent of what I paid for it. Now I'm in the market for a larger tractor that can handle a snowblower, and I plan to buy another Deere.

"My **Bobcat** S130 skid loader has had more problems in 6 months than the Deere 790 had in 10 years. The dealer charges for warranty service and I'm getting no support from the company. I had to spend \$2,000 on repairs but the machine still doesn't work right. Whenever the temperature is between 30 and 45 degrees it won't start. By trial and error I found that to start it you have to turn on the key to pre-heat for whatever time the

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computer determines, then turn off the key and turn it back on to pre-heat for a second time.

"The dealer offered 50 cents on the dollar to buy the Bobcat back with fewer than 100 hours on it. In my opinion, this machine is pure junk.

"My **Ariens** and **Husqvarna** riding mowers are both great machines.

"My **Bolens** wood chipper worked only 3 hours before it quit working. It turned out the air filter was clogged with dirt, and they charged me \$60 to replace it. The machine never worked right after that, and the company has been of no help. The dealer eventually bought it back for 25 cents on the dollar.

"My **Delta** and **Dewalt** power tools – including table saws, handheld circle saws, plug-in and battery-operated drills – are all best buys. They're reasonably priced and last a long time."

Gaylon Schlatter, Guston, Ky.: "I bought a **Stihl** 021 chainsaw on eBay about 4 years ago and also own a 2003 **Stihl** 260 pro chainsaw. I've used all kinds of chainsaws over the years, but I think **Stihl** saws run the best and are the easiest to work on."

Ty Witt, Lamar, Colo.: Ty's impressed with the 1994 **Case** 1835B skid loader he bought used 5 years ago. "I use it to do everything from lifting big bales – which it isn't rated for – to cleaning out a fair-sized number of corrals, all with no problems.

"My 2004 **Ford** F-250 has been a dependable pickup over the years. It's powered by a 6.0-liter diesel engine that works great when it's warm, but I don't like having to wait for it to warm up."

Mike Reed, Oswego, Kansas: "My best buy is the **Revolver** hydraulic bale bed I installed last fall on my **Dodge** Cummins 2500 4-WD truck (Martin Mfg., ph 417 246-5217). It works great and can easily haul 2 big round bales. The arms have enough squeeze travel to handle both large 5 by 6 bales and smaller diameter bales. We use it on rough terrain so we've had to reweld the mounting

brackets, but otherwise this bale bed has been trouble-free. It was a good buy at less than \$6,000, complete and mounted on the truck.

"My **Ryobi** battery-powered circular saw is my worst buy. The main bearing on it went out after only about 2 hours of use. I was only sawing 1 by 10's crossways so I wasn't working it too hard."

Roger North, Albany, Ore.; rnanorth2@juno.com: "My 2007 **Star** mini round baler works great on my small farm. I use it with twine wrap but it can also be used with net wrapping. It consistently makes nice, round bales that are easy to handle, and our cows love the feed. I've used it to make more than 600 bales per year for the last 3 years. It has no knotters to cause trouble, no knives that need sharpening, and no timing issues. I also bought a **Star** bale wrapper to go with it, which allows me to bale haylage if the weather isn't cooperating. The only problem is my local importer/dealer went out of business. I'd like to hear from anyone who sells or uses mini round balers."

Keith Zimmerman, Rutledge, Mo.: "My 2009 **BCS** garden tiller equipped with an 8 hp **Honda** engine is easy to start and does a great job. No problems."

Jim Roberts, Port Angeles, Wash.: "I like my **DeWalt** 18-volt cordless drill, which is equipped with an extra battery. This drill can fall off an 8-ft. ladder onto a hard surface with no damage. Just put the battery back on and you're in business.

"My 1995 **Chevrolet** K1500 extended cab pickup has more than 243,000 miles but has required only routine maintenance. This pickup still has the original engine, transmission, rear end, and ball joints. It's driven on/off road every day."

Robert McLaren, Rodney, Ontario: Robert's satisfied with his 2009 **Deere** Gator 4-WD utility vehicle equipped with a diesel engine. "I use it on my 35 acres which includes brush and ravines. I can't walk any distance so my Gator gets me wherever I need to go. I use it for cutting wood, gardening, and so forth."

Lloyd Painter, Lima, Ohio: "It works well and has been trouble-free," says Lloyd about the 10-in. sliding compound miter saw he bought from **Harbor Freight**. "I paid \$100 for it. I almost bought a \$500 saw, but I'm glad I bought this one instead."

Timothy Fraser, Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia: Timothy's impressed with his 2005 **Jonserud** chainsaw. "It works great. Even though this chainsaw sits around for months at a time it always starts right up on the second or third pull. It's also easy on fuel. I use it to cut 12 to 15 cords every year."

Mac A. Ray, Ronceverte, W. Va.: "I like my 2007 **Hudson** bandsaw mill, which is equipped with a 30-in. throat and 18-ft. track. I retired in March 2007 and this mill has provided me with an enjoyable pastime. I used it to saw lumber to build a shed that now houses the sawmill. I also used it to build an attached building that holds a planer table saw and a workbench, where I glue up and clamp doors, cabinets, and other projects."

Jack E. Fulton, Sioux City, Iowa: "I like my 2005 **Gravely** 44Z zero turn riding mower equipped with a 17 hp **Kawasaki** engine. We use it to mow about 2 1/2 acres every week. This mower always starts right up and has plenty of power to handle tall weeds and short grass. It's also easy to operate. The only thing it can't do is mow across a steep hillside, but I can mow up and down the hill with it.

"People always cut down **Harbor Freight** tools, but you get what you pay for. I have some **Harbor Freight** tools that work fine as



Photo at left, taken in late April, shows grass planted in the shade last fall. Grass at right was planted in a sunny area that was formerly a gravel driveway.

"No-Mow Grass" Test Looks Promising

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

After writing a story last fall about Pearl's Premium "no mow" grass, I got curious and decided to give it a try myself (Vol. 33, No. 5) at my home near Lanesboro, Minn.

According to Jackson Madnick, the breeder who developed the new strain, the grass is extremely hardy, easy to plant, and even easier to maintain. Once established, no watering, fertilizing or even mowing is needed. Grass blades grow to about 9 in. long but tip over so that from a distance it looks like about a 4-in. meadow. Or you can mow it once a month and keep it at 4 to 5 in. tall.

Madnick says many customers tell him the grass is ideal for planting in outlying areas to eliminate mowing and all maintenance. I decided to plant his "shady" mix along a driveway where we normally spread wood chips every couple years. I planted the "sunny" mix in an area that used to be a gravel driveway and where it's very difficult to grow anything.

I planted the grass in September, using 10-10-10 fertilizer as Madnick recommended. I was absolutely amazed at

the way the grass was up and growing in a week. By the time winter came, it was well-established.

This spring the grass came up strong. We haven't done any additional fertilizing. It's green and looking good, as these late April photos show. On one side of the driveway, where the ground was about as hard as concrete, growth is a little more sparse. Madnick says in areas like that you should just do a bit of over-seeding in year two. The grass grows slowly and puts down deep roots. Right now it's about 4 to 5 in. tall and looks good. It should start bending over soon. I don't plan to cut it. We'll see how it handles the summer and whether it survives without any watering.

Later in the summer I'll write an update on my grass plots but so far I'm very impressed with the hardiness and viability of this new grass seed.

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)

long as I don't work the heck out of them. If you're going to work a tool hard, buy better stuff."

Michael Rhodes, Capron, Ill.: "It cuts and runs like a dream," says Michael about his 2006 **Gravely** ZT-2552 zero turn riding mower.

J. Heringhaus, Ottawa, Ohio: "I bought my **Kubota** L2900 4-WD tractor used and really like it. I had to put in new front axle seals, but otherwise this tractor has required only routine maintenance. It's worth every penny I paid for it. I highly recommend **Kubota** tractors.

"My 2007 **Wal-Mart** Brute pressure washer doesn't prime well, but once it's primed it'll spray fine as long as there's pressure. However, with less than 20 hours on the machine the engine oil seal started leaking, and then it began spewing oil. It turns out the engine and pump are bolted together with only two bolts. I had to use lock washers and **Lock-Tite** to hold everything together."

Ernie Oshust, Star, Alberta: "The 1975 **Deere** 6030 tractor I bought used is a best buy. This tractor is built with strength and

power. It's rated at 175 hp but actually puts out well more than 200 hp. If anyone knows of a front wheel assist option for this tractor, I'd like to hear from them. Front wheel assist would make this the ultimate farm tractor.

"I've been driving a 2000 **Volvo** truck equipped with a **Detroit** 60 series engine on a **Canada/U.S.** run for the past 5 years. Since **Chevron** 15-40 oil is quite common to truck stops in both countries, I used this oil. However, the truck seemed to be using a lot of oil as I was adding 2 U.S. gal. on every 4,000-mile trip. At home I've used **Deere** 15-40 plus 50 oil in all my trucks and farm tractors for years.

"Oil sampling has been a regular part of our equipment maintenance program, and this is where I discovered the **Chevron** oil was breaking down much more rapidly than the **Deere** 15-40 plus 50 oil. After I started using **Deere** oil on the **Volvo**, the **Volvo's** oil consumption dropped to about 1/2 gal. per 4,000-mile trip. Along with this major reduction in oil consumption, I also realized a gain of about 1 1/2 mpg in fuel efficiency."

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