

# Solid Obstacles Don't Stop Spring-Loaded Sectional Snowblade

A new HLA snowblade from Horst Welding adjusts to uneven surfaces on-the-go. Individual 2-ft. wide sections of the Razor snow pusher trip and then slide up and over immovable objects.

"Operators love it, especially in parking lots with manholes and drains," says Clare Gingrich, Horst Welding. "It has been so well received that we are expanding our production facility to meet demand."

The Razor offers dual action tripping, beginning with a 6-in. high section of the removable/reversible cutting edge. As it tips backward, the 34-in. section of moldboard can slide upward as much as 7 in., depending on the height of the obstacle. Snowplow end pieces are equipped with floating edges.

"Each section is individually spring-

loaded," explains Gingrich. "Down pressure can be manually adjusted."

The Razor is available in three widths of 10, 12 and 14 ft. Weights range from 2,550 to 3,295 lbs. Gingrich says the Razor is available with connecting brackets to fit a wide range of ski steers, loaders and teleloaders.

Contact Horst Welding dealers in Canada or U.S. distributors for pricing. Prices will vary depending on the type of brackets required.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Horst Welding, 8082 Rd. 129, RR 3, Listowel, Ont., Canada N4W 3G8 (ph 519 291-4162; toll free 866 567-4162; sales@horstwelding.com; www.horstwelding.com).



Snowblade is equipped with individual 2-ft. wide sections, which trip and then slide up and over uneven surfaces on-the-go.

## Colorful Extensions Add Fun To Riding

About 4 years ago, Montana horse owner Kim Zacha was inspired by her daughter's drawings of vividly colored horses to create equine extensions. She figured out a way to attach synthetic hair to a clip that holds securely to a horse tail or mane. She then set up a website with a couple dozen color options.

"My favorite calls are from little girls. Or I get letters with an order for one extension and cash in the envelope," Zacha says.

At \$5.50 per extension, her goal is to keep the accessory affordable. She offers discounts for orders of 50 or more and donates a portion of pink extension sales to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

"Color makes your horse look faster," she says, explaining the colorful additions are allowed in speed events such as barrel racing. Drill teams like them too, and many riders match a horse's hair extensions to their own for parades and other events.

Zacha cautions that some judging classes don't allow the extensions, so it's important

to check.

The 23-in. long by 1-in. wide extensions can be trimmed, braided and mixed with other colors for even more flash. For nighttime riding or parades, Zacha offers LED extensions in six colors for \$14 each.

While mostly used for fun, Zacha says the hair extensions are also practical. Horses for trail rides can be marked with red (for a horse that kicks), green (inexperienced) and yellow (stallion). The clips stay in place better than ribbons, which are typically used.

"I also promote using them on Appaloosas that have very little tails," Zacha says. "Put them on during fly season to help keep the flies off."

She suggests choosing bright colors in case the extensions fall off when horses run free on pasture.

Her colorful idea has earned worldwide attention. The extensions are particularly popular in South Africa and Australia. Other orders have come in from Saudi Arabia.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kim



Montana horse owner Kim Zacha figured out a way to attach synthetic hair to a clip that holds securely to a horse's tail or mane.

Zacha, Colorful Manes and Tails, P.O. Box 4572; info@colorfulmanesandtails.com; 225, Corvallis, Mont. 59828 (ph 406 961- www.colorfulmanesandtails.com).

## Giant Grass Has Many Uses

Growing up to 14 ft. tall, Miscanthus grass can be used as a living privacy screen, a deer blind, long-lasting bedding, or as biofuel.

Best of all, it's easy to grow, says Kathy Carrigan, who along with her husband, Tom, grows and sells the giant grass through their business, Lacy Creek Growers.

The Vermontville, Mich., couple stumbled onto Miscanthus a few years ago when they were buying plants to grow at their rural nursery. They purchased one pot and were surprised at the interest it attracted when they posted it on their website. They found a couple of growers to meet the demand and started propagating the giant grass on their property.

"Our business has changed to the point where this is now our main product, along with other unusual landscape plants," says Carrigan.

Grown in Europe for 30 years as a biofuel crop, Miscanthus planted at 4,200 rhizomes/acre produces as much as 17 tons/acre and three times as much energy as corn – with little to no inputs. Plus, it's a perennial that can produce for a couple of decades.

The Carrigans' nursery isn't large enough for the agriculture market, but homeowners and deer hunters throughout Zones 4-9 keep them busy filling orders.

"An average sale is 100 divisions for deer hunters or 30 divisions for a hedge," Carrigan says.

While other companies sell individual rhizomes, the Carrigans sell larger bare root divisions as big as a hand that are much easier to start, grow up to 6 ft. tall, and triple or

quadruple in rhizome mass in the first year. Individual divisions start at \$2.89/each with discounts for larger orders (\$2.59/each for 100 to 499 plants, for example). Miscanthus needs to be watered to get started, but once established does well in poor soils and drought.

The grass is a sterile cross between two Asian grasses so it doesn't produce seeds. Legal in all states, it's considered non-invasive because it can be easily controlled with herbicides around the perimeter. The rhizomes multiply similar to irises and can be dug up and divided every few years. Or they can be left alone to become dense foliage.

"At first we sold to homeowners who grow it for privacy screening. Then deer hunters found out about us," Carrigan says. "They use it around blinds and for screening off property so people aren't shining deer. Deer won't cross it, and wildlife likes it for cover and bedding."

Because it doesn't deteriorate as fast as straw, some growers harvest it for bedding. In areas with a long enough season, Miscanthus grows a silvery plume in the fall. The grass can be cut back anytime after it has gone dormant or left alone to add landscape interest in the winter.

The Carrigans started shipping to Florida in January, but most orders go out starting in mid-March.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom and Kathy Carrigan, Lacy Creek Growers, 7338 Kinsel Hwy., Vermontville, Mich. 49096 (ph 517 726-0026; www.lacycreekgrowers.com).



Giant Miscanthus grass grows up to 14 ft. tall and works great as a living privacy screen or as a deer blind, says Kathy Carrigan, Lacy Creek Growers.



Carrigan sells bare root divisions as big as a hand that are easy to start.