



One bale of straw yields about 500 sq. ft. of Roll 'n Grow straw mat which, in 30 days, grows into a lush green lawn.

## LUSH GREEN GRASS IN ONLY 30 DAYS

# Look What They're Doing With Straw

Latest new way to turn straw into money, and bare ground into a lush green lawn in only 30 days, is Roll'n Grow, a straw-based mat laced with grass seed and fertilizer, and held together with a water soluble glue.

According to the manufacturer — Roll'n Grown Lawns, of Pleasantville, Iowa — you can lay down a complete new lawn anywhere by yourself and do it in a fraction of the time and cost of other conventional installation methods.

"We've opened up an exciting new cash market for straw," says Carl Suding, general manager. He estimates that once the firm gets into full production later this year, it will need a million bales of straw per month.

To supply this demand, the company says it will buy baled straw from as far away as Montana and Idaho, if necessary.

"We chop the straw into short lengths, then weave it into easy-to-handle mats which, for home lawns, measure 2 ft. wide by 25 ft. long," Suding explains. "Next, we enrich the mat with a special organic bonding agent developed to seal the mat to the ground. Finally, we seed the Roll'n Grow Lawn mat with a precise pattern of the most wanted grass seeds best adapted for you the buyer's particular area. The protective straw gives every seed a chance to germinate, then begins to break down to let the seeds reach the surface. The special bonding agent deteriorates at the same rate at which the grass seed takes root. As its final contribution, the straw breaks down completely to enrich the soil," Suding points out.

"One of the key advantages of the straw mat is that it can be used to reduce erosion," Suding explains. "The mat is so integrated that you can put a gorgeous lawn on grades and slope up to 45°. Another advantage is that the mats are almost 100% free of weed seeds."



Individual mats made of chopped straw are 2 ft. wide, 25 ft. long. They're laced with a grass seed mixture and held together with a special bonding agent.

A roll of Roll'n Grown Lawn weighs less than 5 lbs. and rolls out like a bolt of cloth. One roll, enough to cover 50 sq. ft., sells for \$9.95.

According to Suding, the company expects to have 24 machines in operation by the end of this year, each of which will produce an average of 24,000 sq. ft. of straw carpet per day. One bale of straw yields about 500 sq. ft. of mat.

Suding adds that the company has fairly good distribution in Iowa and surrounding states and is in the process of establishing distributors in other States. The product is sold through dealers, such as lawn and garden outlets.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roll'n Grow Lawns, Carl Suding, General Manager, P. O. Box U, Highway 5, Pleasantville, Iowa 50225 (ph 515 848-3627).



"There's not a belt or sprocket on it," says Orville Linn, inventor.

## COULD GO EVEN WIDER TO 50 FT.

# Ultra-Wide Swather Takes 36-ft. Cut

You've never seen a swather quite like this — 36 ft. wide, self propelled and completely hydraulic. It's not for sale yet, but a lot of industry giants — including John Deere, International Harvester and Hesston — are taking a close look at this first-of-its-kind swather developed by Orville Linn, of Lang, Sask., Canada.

Even at 36 ft., it isn't as big as it could be.

"We could build one at least 50 ft. wide, but we were limited by shop space and materials on this prototype," Linn told FARM SHOW. Despite its width, the swather swings hydraulically into a narrow 10 ft. wide transport position in just 15 seconds.

The machine can lay down either a windrow from one 36-ft. swath, two windrows side-by-side from 18 ft. swaths, or two windrows 18-ft. apart from 18-ft. swaths. Spacing of windrows can be altered on the go.

Linn says he's not the first to try building an ultra-wide swather but thinks he's the first to succeed because of his machine's innovations.

First, hydrostatic drive lets him conveniently cross-mount the Chrysler slant-six, 225 cu. in. engine across the rear. Drive wheels turn hydraulically toward the direction of travel in the field or on the road. The cab also pivots hydraulically in the direction of travel, and it's all done in seconds. "There's not a belt or sprocket on this machine," says Linn.

Secondly, although turning is always difficult on wide machines, Linn solved the problem with a special drive wheel alignment. He reverses the inside wheel on the turn and then cramps it 40 degrees to

bring the machine around evenly.

Thirdly, side-hill draft, or the tendency for one side of the machine to hold back, was solved with a mercury level switch that adjusts for the problem by sending more hydraulic fluid to the slower side.

In addition, two-stage hydraulics almost double the swather's field speed in transport, according to Linn. "In the field, one stage operates the drive wheels and the other the cutting unit. In transport, the second stage is routed to the drive system, increasing its capacity to 18 mph maximum."

Another key feature on the prototype swather is the front-mounted left drive wheel. It gives leverage and supports the increased length required.

"The only swather I know of that came close to this size was a 30-ft. self-propelled model Versatile brought on the market briefly but took off after problems," says Linn. "With this design we can more than double the length of the largest existing self-propelled swather today."

Linn used two 18-ft. swathers to build the machine and it hinges in the middle. The drive unit detaches from the cutting head and can be used on other machines.

He estimates the swather retail price at \$20,000 but says John Deere and other manufacturers suggest \$25,000 as more realistic.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Linnco Manufacturing, Ltd., Box 188, Lang, Sask. Canada SOG 2W0 (ph 306 464-4640).

Wide swather swings hydraulically into narrow 10 ft. width for down-the-road travel. Drive wheels turn hydraulically in direction of travel.

