

5 Things That I Could Do Without While Mowing The Lawn

We divide labor on our farm. One of my "labor" duties is to mow the lawn. The "lawn" includes not only the grass around my house and backyard, but also what grows (which is mostly weeds) around the barns, machine sheds and other farm buildings. And as I was mowing today, I thought there are just some things that I could do without. Here are my top 5:

1. Snakes. I usually see about 2-3 snakes per year when I mow. And I **HATE** snakes. No, really, I **REALLY** hate snakes. My head knows we have no poisonous snakes here in southern Minnesota and I know there isn't anything I should be afraid of, but I absolutely hate how they look and how they move. Shivers go down my spine and my heart nearly stops when one is within my eyesight. Even seeing a green garden hose in the grass freaks me out!

2. Bumpy terrain. Yes, a portion of the ground that I mow is not smooth and flat. Believe me, I envy those lawns that are so smooth you literally could play a game of bowling on it. Not on my lawn. We have a track tractor and the tracks are aggressive by creating nasty ruts. And *sometimes* the tractor drives on portions of the lawn I mow (and yes, I am partially to blame). It eventually smoothes out a bit over time but until then, hang on for dear life or creep at a snail's pace!

3. A lawn mower with issues. Don't get me wrong, I like my lawn mower. It has some great features. I love that it takes a 60" cut and I love the zero turn capabilities. But it needs to see the walls of a repair shop. The fuel and water temperature gauge do not work. After 4 hours of lawn mowing, I wonder how low my gas level is and when will I be sitting motionless? Yes, I could stop at that point and refill, but I usually am on a roll and I don't want to stop until I am done. More than likely, Murphy's law will rear it's head and I will probably be the furthest point from the gas barrel if I do run out of gas. It's just the way it works on the farm.

4. Referring back to #1. Yes, I hate snakes but I also have other "wildlife" that tries to take up residency in my lawn. We have animals that dig holes in the ground and then leave a pile of dirt from the dug up hole. Just last week I had a family of baby rabbits in a nest that was residing in my lawn. Also, I have a killdeer that completely freaks out at me as I mow by the gravel where she has laid eggs. I wish they would just find another place to set up home because I don't like seeing tiny baby rabbits scurrying everywhere (because I really don't want to run them over) and a hyperactive killdeer freaking out and acting like she has a broken wing!

5. Digging dirt out of my eyes and nose for 3 days after mowing. Lawn mowing is a really, really dirty job. No getting around it. No matter how careful I am I look like I just crawled out of a hole in the ground. Dirt is EVERYWHERE. Dirt in my nose, eyes and ears. When I finish my job, I

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strip my clothes and head for the shower. Immediately. And, yes, sometimes clothes stripping is done before entering the house. Thank goodness for remote living in the country.

But when the job done, I really do like the look and smell of a freshly mowed lawn. And I do it all over the following week . . .