

On-The-Go Silage Baler Also Works Stationary

By Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor

The Agronic silage baler can be towed through the field with a forage harvester blowing silage into the hopper, compressing and then dropping wrapped bales out the back. It can also be operated while stationary, feeding silage into the hopper from a silo or wagon.

While designed for silage, the Agronic MultiBaler is being used for a wide variety of source materials around the world. It works equally well baling peat, wood chips, and other materials as it does corn, grass or alfalfa.

Whether used in the field or stationary, materials are compacted and rolled into tight round bales before being wrapped in plastic. In the field, silage baling turns a multi-person job into a one or two-person operation. The baler can be towed directly behind a harvester or alongside.

Similarly, baling silage from a pile or pit requires only one person. The same front-end loader or tractor dumping silage into the



Towed through the field by a forage harvester blowing silage into the hopper, Agronic silage baler compresses and then drops plastic-wrapped bales out the back.

hopper can be used to remove wrapped bales.

Made in Finland, the MultiBaler is marketed by Gebr. Knoll of the Netherlands. It is currently available in 2 models. The 820 requires only a 70 hp tractor to produce 33-in. wide bales ranging in diameter from 31 to 35 in. Bale weight can range from 550 to 1,000 lbs., depending on materials being baled. It is priced at \$87,500.

The 1210 requires a 90 hp or larger tractor to produce bales that are 39 in. wide and range from 39 to 47 in. dia. Weights, depending on materials, range from 1,200 to 2,200 lbs. It is priced at \$147,400.

"We don't have an appointed sales distributor in North America at the moment," says Jarold Knoll, Gebr. Knoll. "We would welcome finding one qualified to work with the MultiBaler."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gebr. Knoll, Oude Rijksweg 525a, 7954 GL Rouveen, Holland (ph 31-522 291377; info@gebrknoll.nl; www.gebrknoll.nl).



Silage baler can also be operated while stationary, by feeding silage into the hopper from a silo or wagon (above). Baler is made in Finland.



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May - June, 2016

Supersized Sunflowers Liven Up Garden

If you love sunflowers and the bigger the better, we found a couple of standout varieties you may want to try in your garden.

In Sandy, Ore., Larry Hilliard has spent a few years developing his Super Sunflowers that grow 14 ft. tall and produce about 30 heads.

"They have all yellow petals with dark brown to black centers," he says. "They get so many flowers I usually have to brace them when they start to lean. The stalk gets up to 5 in. in diameter near the ground."

Bees love them and, when the flowers turn dark and wilt, he cuts the heads off and stores them to feed birds through the winter. They aren't meaty enough for roasting for human snacks, but birds love them, he says.

Hilliard usually starts his seeds on a damp towel to make sure they germinate, then transfers them to small pots to get a good start. They do well in Oregon, and he says they should grow bigger in regions where nights are warmer.

Hilliard has limited seed available from the largest heads that he will sell for \$3/pack or \$5/two packs (cash only). Seed can be saved from the heads to plant the following year.

If you prefer big-headed sunflowers, Rob's Rare and Giant Seeds offers Sunzilla Sunflowers, 5 seeds for \$1.79 plus shipping (www.robsrareandgiantseeds.com). The heads can grow to more than 12 in. in diameter, and the plants grow 16 to 24 ft. tall when grown in full sun. The seeds are suitable for humans and birds.



Larry Hilliard's Super Sunflowers grow 14 ft. tall and produce about 30 heads.



Sunzilla Sunflower heads can grow to more than 12 in. in dia., and the plants grow up to 24 ft. tall when grown in full sun.

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