

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Austree trees he planted several years ago. They're a fast-growing hybrid willow tree. "These trees were advertised as providing an instant windbreak, and all I had to do was add water. The trees did grow fast, but they started dying after only six or seven years."

Akio Mukai, Selma, Calif.: Akio's the owner of a Massey Ferguson 275 tractor and says it's his "worst buy". "The second year I had it the fuel tank leaked, the fifth year the power steering went out, and the sixth year the power take-off shaft seal started leaking. The lift arm came apart the 10th year. Now I can't even steer the tractor in a straight line. What makes it worse is that I haven't really used this tractor very much."

Walt Hanefeld, Continental, Ohio: "My best buy is my Homelite XL2 chain saw. I've used it for 20 years with few problems. It cuts good, is easy to start, and is light in weight so it's easy to handle. I've replaced bars, a couple of chains, and one pull rope - that's all. I'm well satisfied with this chain saw."

"My Drill Doctor sharpens drill bits as good as new."

"My worst buy was having my 1992 Ford Explorer rust-proofed by Ziebart. Five years and 46,000 miles after the rust-proofing job, I noticed that rust was coming through from the inside on the lower rocker panels, under the rear doors. I took the vehicle back to Ziebart, but they said the rust was caused by a Ford design problem. So I went to Ford, but they said the vehicle wasn't rusted out enough to justify making any repairs. I went back to Ziebart with two \$900 to \$925 estimates, but they said they would only pay

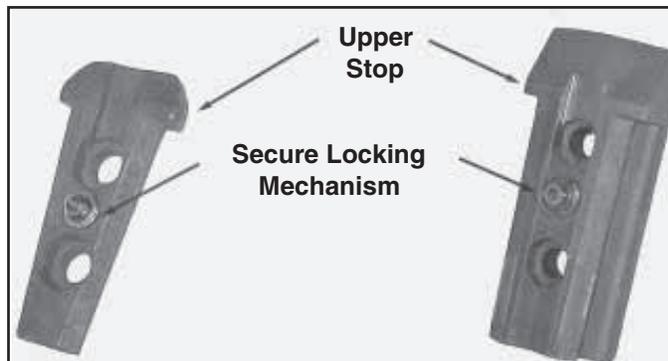
\$350 to repair the panels. This happened in May 1998.

"Last March I decided to have the rust problem taken care of. The Explorer had only about 50,000 miles on it and I was happy with the vehicle itself. I took it to a body shop and they started work on it. Once they cut into it they found that it was rusted worse than it looked from the outside, but they fixed it anyway. When they were looking it over they noticed some bubbles on the bottom left side of the front fender. They cut into it and found a big rusty hole on the inside. When they took the fender off to replace it they found that the Ziebart rust-proofing material had not been sprayed on the bottom half of the fender."

"I took the old fender back to Ziebart to show them what had happened and asked them if they would pay to replace the fender. They said they couldn't pay because I hadn't brought the Explorer back for inspection every year."

"I ended up spending \$3,000 of my own money to fix all of these problems. Ford paid nothing, and Ziebart gave me a check for only \$350. All they want is your money, and they won't help you when they do mess up. These two companies do a poor job of backing up their warranties."

Valentine Pomedli, Pilger, Sask.: "My best buys are the Bourgault Speed-Loc adapters that I use on my 42-ft. Bourgault field cultivator (F.P. Bourgault Tillage Tools Ltd., Box 310, St. Brieux, Sask., Canada S0K 3V0 ph 306 275-4500; Website: www.tillagetools.com). These quick-change



Bourgault's 200 series Speed-Loc adapter (left) is designed for medium duty tillage and seeding. The 410 series (right) is designed for heavy duty use.

adapters allow me to install or remove cultivator shovels fast without using any wrenches. It takes less than half the effort and time to change sweeps and shovels compared to any other system I've used in the past. It takes only about a half hour to change all 68 shovels on my cultivator.

"To install a shovel I just pop a spring-loaded pin into a hole in the stem of the sweep. The spring-loaded pin eliminates any chance of losing a shovel in the field. A unique upper stop on the adapter keeps all shovels working at the same depth. Because the spring-loaded pin holds the shovel on, the stem doesn't have to fit nearly as tight on the adapter as with other shovel adapters. A couple of light taps with a hammer is all I need in order to get the sweep to the upper

stop. A handy speed-release tool allows me to easily remove the shovels.

"The system virtually prevents lost shovels, even in rocky ground. I've used these adapters for a full year and haven't lost a single shovel yet. I don't have to replace shovels and bolts all the time and I don't have to worry about lost shovels causing flat tires later on."

"The company offers different Speed-Loc models to fit various brands of cultivators and chisel plows, and also offers adapters for air seeder openers. They sell for about \$17 to \$25 apiece (Canadian) depending on model and come with a two-year warranty against any sort of failure and also a one-year buy-back guarantee if you're not completely satisfied with them."

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