

Best & Worst Buys

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cement up to about 15 ft. high.”

Wesley Yankey, Mt. Solon, Va.: “I love my **Leatherman Super Tool**. It’s made up of 16 different tools so I don’t have to run to the shop every five minutes to find the tool I need. I use it to do everything from working on my truck to sawing branches off trees to building/fixing fence to opening orange juice cans. It’s built heavy and is backed by a 25-year warranty. If the company’s other tools are half as good as this one they’re also worth looking at.

“The **Homelite Super XL** chain saw that my dad bought in 1975 was also a best buy. We used it to cut all our firewood until this year when it wore out. I’d like to have a nickel for every tree we cut with it. We also used it to cut a lot of other things besides trees and it always kept going.”

Mike Griffith, Corbett, Ore.: “After 1,100 hrs., our **Kubota B7100 4-WD** tractor has been very dependable. We use it for work in our nursery. We had the tractor narrowed at a local machine shop by repositioning the centers of the rear wheels on the rims and using narrower tires. We also cut down the front axle.”

Marvin Patterson, Shelbyville, Kent.: “I happened upon a rust stopping paint at a car show that’s a great product. It’s called **Por 15** and is marketed by **Imperial Restorations, Inc.** (Lemont, Ill. ph 708 527-5822 or 800-457-6715). It works on any metal surface with rust. I’ve used it to stop rust on grain bins, tractors, cars, trucks and a number of other pieces of equipment. I paid \$88 per gallon. I’m not a dealer. It’s just a product that works great.”

Tom D. Wilson, Lamona, Wash.: “My **Flexi-Coil** series 75 spiral packer is a best buy because of its excellent field performance. During 1,000 acres of field use I’ve



had no problems with plugging or pushing of soil in front of packer. The two competitive brands I used in the past both had plugging problems. I also appreciate the frame strength, hydraulic system, and ease of transport.”

Ray L. Grabber, Lincoln, Neb.: “My one-man gas-powered post hole auger is a best buy. It has a 3-hp. Tecumseh engine and is manufactured by Machinery & Electrical Products Co. I could keep a whole crew busy planting posts with it. Powerful and rugged.”

Costante Parapini, Dewdney, B.C.: He’s the owner of a “best buy” 1993 **Ford 8630 4-WD** tractor. “The powershift transmission works good and the engine has a lot of power but it could be more fuel efficient. It has 650 hours on it.

“My 1990 **Kubota 7030 4-WD** front wheel assist tractor equipped with a **Massey-Ferguson** industrial front-end loader is a best buy. It has over 2,500 hours on it with no problems and starts easy in cold weather. My only complaint is that the front tires wear out too fast. The only time I use the front wheel assist is to push silage up into our bunker silo.”

Robert D. Anderson, Thorndale,

Ontario: Robert owns a **New Idea 325** corn picker equipped with a 314 sheller. “We bought it used from a dealer’s ‘back row’. Some parts had been removed from the sheller so we bought another one for parts. It’s easy to repair and parts are reasonably priced. It’ll pick 150 bu. per acre corn at 3 1/2 mph and shell it cleaner than any combine on the market. I can cover as much ground per hour as my neighbor can with his **Gleaner K** that’s equipped with a 330 header.”

On the negative side, he lists his 1992 **Cub Cadet 1320 38-in.** riding mower equipped with a hydrostatic transmission. “The belts are difficult to change and the entire machine is poorly built. The deck’s right rear gauge wheel rubs on the mower’s rear tire. The hydrostatic transaxle is a sealed unit so if it leaks oil can’t be added. The company’s newer models don’t have these problems. We wanted to trade it in for a new one but our dealer wouldn’t allow us more than 60% of the original price we had paid two years before.”

Martin Wark, Camlachie, Ontario: “This tractor is a pleasure to drive. It has a lot of power and is easy on fuel,” says Martin about his 1994 **Case-IH 5230 2-WD** Maxxum tractor equipped with a powershift transmission. “No problems so far.”

George Johnson, Elk City, Kan.: “On a scale of 1 to 10 I rate it a 10,” says George about his 1994 **Ford F-250** pickup equipped with a turbocharged diesel engine. “It’s dependable and rides comfortably and it has a lot of power. It’s also easy on fuel.

“My 1988 **White 120** front wheel assist tractor is our worst buy. It has only 3,000 hours on it but has had a number of hydraulic problems. Last year the powershift transmission went out and it cost \$5,000 to repair. The real disappointment is the service. Our dealer went out of business and now our nearest dealer is 70 miles away. We’ll never buy another White.”

C.A. Lund, Keewatin, Ontario: “My 1989 **Deutz-Allis 1816** riding mower is dependable and does a good job of mowing everything from swamp grass to lawns. I really like the hydrostatic transmission.”

Dan McMurtry, Swift Current, Sask.: “I like my 1986 **Case 1896** tractor which is equipped with a **Case 90** front-end loader. It’s easy to operate and doesn’t require a lot of maintenance. My wife uses it to do loader work. My only complaints are that the transmission is hard to shift and the quick-tach loader is hard to take off.”

Ernest R. Norman, Jewett City, Ct.: Ernest has had problems with his 1991 **New Holland 489** Haybine. “The pulley drive reel split, two reel bars broke, a shaft on the gearbox broke, a chain leading to the gearbox constantly breaks, and the chain idler broke off the frame. Over the years I or my father have owned **New Holland 460, 469, and 479** haybines. We used the 479 for 14 years and had very few problems with it.”

Raul Vonnegut, Olalla, Wash.: Raul’s had good luck with his **DR** brush and field mower. “It works great for cutting small trees, tall or wet grass, and wild blackberries. We use a heavy duty blade with it.”

Edgar Pierce, Battle Creek, Mich.: “I bought a **Nealey’s** tire repair kit this year and it’s my best buy (The Nealey Co., 8767 Sunny Hill Drive, Des Moines, Iowa

50325). It’s easy to use and I don’t have to remove the wheel to fix a leak. I repaired my first tire with it about a month after I got it. Since then I’ve used it to repair over a dozen tires for friends and relatives, and not one has failed yet.”

Denny Kees, Harlan, Ind.: “My 1994 **JM Innovations** mini-floater sprayer equipped with an **MT3000** monitor is my best buy. Both the sprayer and monitor are accurate and save on labor, allowing us to go to a total postemergence weed control

“I’ve used it to repair over a dozen tires for friends and relatives, and not one has failed yet.”

program. It’s one of the few products I’ve bought that was set up and ready to go without the operator having to make modifications or improvements to it.

“My 1995 **Deere 750** no-till drill is easy to operate and performs well under a variety of conditions.”

On the “worst buy” side, “My 1993 **United Farm Tools 15-ft.** no-till drill wouldn’t plant with precision under any circumstances except in soft sand. The coulters and press wheels created a mess instead of a seedbed, making it impossible to achieve a uniform seeding depth. The seed population rate was difficult to set and wouldn’t stay constant so after I planted several acres I had to reset it. The company denied any problem with the drill. I traded it in for the **Deere 750** and couldn’t be happier with it.”

J.D. Blankenship, Walnut Ridge, Ark.: “My 1994 **Case-IH** Magnum 7140 tractor is my best buy. It’s a reliable and economical tractor that’s always ready to go. No problems.”

Nicholas Sotiropoulos, Radom, Ill.: “On long trips it rides better than my car,” says Nicholas about his 1993 **Ford F-250** pickup equipped with a diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. “It gets 18 to 19 mpg. No problems. My 1987 **Ford** pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine and 4-speed transmission ran good, too. I put 88,000 miles on it without spending any money for repairs.”

Ted Koehlinger, Monroeville, Ind.: “My **Deere 750** no-till drill works great in all conditions.”

Alan Kellam, Brantford, Ontario: “I’m well satisfied with my **Deere 2355 4-WD** tractor equipped with a **Deere 245** front-end loader. It’s one of the best I’ve ever bought. It has a lot of power for its size and turns short, and the front wheel assist provides extra pulling power. We use it for spraying, cutting hay, etc. The hydraulic system has a lot of capacity. I mounted extra working lights on it.”

Fritz Trauttmansdorff, Jerseyville, Ontario: “I like my 1995 **Case-IH 5230 2-WD** tractor. It has a lot of power, a great cab, good lights, and is easy to service. However, the lower gear ratios could be better. The step up from first to second gear is too big. We use it for haying work and for doing light tillage and seeding. We put on 20.8 by 38 radial rear tires and 11.00 by 16 front tires. They keep the tractor high off the ground for haying work while providing good traction for field work without having to use dual tires. We mounted an **International 2250** front-end loader on it. The loader is 20 years old and is on its third trac-

tor but still works good. It’s easy to take on and off.”

John Hoegl, Lloydminster, Sask.: John’s the owner of several “best buy” **Deere** tractors - a 1991 8760, 1989 4255, 1980 8440, and 1964 4020. “I wouldn’t want any other brand except maybe the **Caterpillar** Challenger if a good dealer was nearby. I wish the fuel tanks on the 4-WD models could be filled from either side, and I wish the rear fenders could be folded down or removed so that it would be easier to see and work on forage harvesters and pto-operated combines. I added extra work lights on the 8440 and mounted a **Degelman 6-way** dozer on it. I also put handle extensions on the remote hydraulic outlets so that I can operate them from behind the tractor. We’re also pleased with our 1995 **Deere 740** front-end loader. It’s easy to take on or off and attachments can be changed easily.”

Tim Beirnes, Cambridge, Ontario: Tim likes his 1996 **Mazda B2300** shortbed pickup. “I can’t remember enjoying driving any vehicle this much since I was 18 and had a sports car. The only problem is that my wife and daughter always want to drive it, too. It gets 35 mpg.

“My 1986 **Ford** Ranger pickup equipped with a 2.9-liter 6-cyl. engine and automatic transmission is my worst buy. I bought it used and it now has about 140,000 miles. I’ve owned it for four years and have had to replace the transmission every year.”

Arsene Van Hyfte, Dresden, Ontario: “I’m well pleased with my new **Kongskilde 3500 23-ft.** tandem axle cultivator. It’s equipped with light H clearance tines, single point depth control, goosefoot teeth, KNA arms with rolling harrows, and a 5-bar front. It does excellent work and doesn’t plug up easily, and the tines are well spaced. It makes the best seedbed we’ve ever had.

“We’ve had a lot of problems with our 1991 **Deere 4440** tractor. The starter is underpowered and has difficulty starting the tractor. Another problem initially was that the lights would quit working at night every few minutes and I had to sit and wait 10 minutes or so before they came back on. Also, the heater and radio didn’t work. Eventually we discovered the problems were due to an improperly tightened power bar connection under the dash cowlings.

“The windshield shattered while my other son was using the tractor to incorporate herbicides. The next year I was using the tractor to chisel plow when the front end shot over to the right. The hub bolts had sheared off on the right rear wheel - the axle was turning but the wheel wasn’t. The shear bolts had discoloring that showed they were defective. I called the dealer and he said the shearing problem was our fault. He finally ended up paying half the repair cost.

“The seat has a lever for controlling the ride from soft to hard, but this tractor rode like an old steel-wheeled wagon no matter where the lever was set. New parts were installed to try to improve the ride but they didn’t help. Finally it was determined that the adjustment lever rod was defective.

“The cab leaves a lot to be desired because it’s small and hard to get in and out of. My sons and I have all hit our heads several times on the rear window while turning around to back up and hitch up to an implement. This cab is made for 5-ft. tall, 100-lb. people, not 6-ft. 3-in., 200-lb. people. It does have a lot of power but it burns a lot of fuel. It also has a poor steering system that lets it wander all over the road. This tractor has been a real pain for five years.”