

doesn't use any oil - all I do is add gas and mow."

Evan Small, Montrose, Penn.: "I've had good luck with **Pittsburgh** tools from Harbor Freight. They're quality-built and come with a lifetime warranty, so if they break or don't work properly the company will replace them at no cost. They're also affordably priced.

"My 2008 **Dodge** Caliber car breaks down too often and has cost us a lot on repairs. I don't recommend this car."

Ray Glassey, Ste. Genevieve, Mo.: "My **Stihl** 038 chainsaw is more than 30 years old but still starts and runs well. The engine has never been worked on. I always use Stihl oil in the gas."

"I needed a utility vehicle with power steering, but that was the first thing to go."

Helen Barton, Wyoming, Ill.: "I bought my 2012 **Deere** Gator because I needed a utility vehicle with power steering, but that was the first thing to go wrong with it. Then other problems developed. The battery went dead all the time because it was wired wrong. Reverse gear wouldn't work so they put in a new transmission, fortunately before the warranty expired. However, after the warranty expired it started having problems again. This time they worked on it and I ended up paying \$186. Now it's back in the shop again.

"We've always owned Deere equipment but have never had trouble like this. I used my previous Gator for 8 years and it never had any problems."

Jim Roberts, Canyon, Texas: Jim's impressed with the gun-mounted **Night Eyes** red LED Gun Light he bought last December from **Night Eyes, LLC** (www.nighteyeslights.com; ph 814 364-9660). Sells for \$140.

The **Night Eyes** gun light looks like a small flashlight and can be attached directly to the gun barrel or to a scope. Roberts bought the F6-R red LED model as well as a scope.



The gun light is 6 in. long and weighs 7 oz. It comes with a remote switch that is silent when activated to avoid scaring off predators.

"This hunting light is smaller, lighter and brighter than most other gun lights on the market. I didn't think something as small as this light could be bright enough to work, but it works great. I couldn't be happier with it," says Roberts. "I bought it because I had a lot of trouble with rabbits in my garden last year. I had to replant my sweet corn and okra twice, and the rabbits ate all my potatoes.

"I shot any rabbits that I saw on my property during the daytime, but I couldn't see them at night. Now with the **Night Eyes** gun light I'm getting rid of rabbits as fast as I can pull the trigger. The LED light works something like an infrared light. I can't see the beam from where I'm standing as I shoot, but I can see the rabbit's eyes which show up bright red. The light doesn't spook the animal at all. Instead, the animal just 'freezes' which makes it easy to shoot. I can see rabbits from at least 200 yards away."

Lewis Gooding, Monterey, Tenn.: "My **Trajan** Q700 circular saw with a 7-in. carbide blade works fantastic (www.sawblade.com; ph 800 754-6920). It cuts quickly through solid stock as well as thick and thin wall tubing without heating up, and with very few sparks. It's a great metal cutting tool. The 7-in. blade costs only about \$35 to \$40."

Mark Sturgeon, Fraziers Bottom, W. Va.: "No problems with my 2007 **Nissan** Titan pickup. I've used it to pull a 30-ft. trailer and a loaded 15-ft. lowboy trailer, and have also climbed hills and gone through creeks with it. I change the oil every 5,000 miles."

Roger W. Meihak, Forest Lake, Minn.: "I bought a 10-year-old **Cyclone** rake leaf vacuum on Craigslist last year (www.cyclonerake.com; ph 888 531-7253). It's the company's economy model and has a canvas bag so it's lightweight. But its best feature is that it rides on caster wheels, which means I have no trouble backing up. I love this machine.

"My **Stihl** chainsaw with E-Z pull starter is easy to start. I just pull the starter cord slow and easy and it'll start right up. There's no yanking or kicking back. This saw is a joy to use."

Darell Sunderlin, Dillon, Mont.: Darell's happy with his **Central Machinery** 7-ton electric wood splitter, which he bought at Harbor Freight. "A friend let me borrow his unit, and it worked so well that I bought my own. I let my father-in-law use it and he ended up buying one, too."

Joe E. Miller, Fredericksburg, Ohio: "I'm well satisfied with my **Massey Ferguson** 240 4-WD loader tractor which I bought used with 880 hrs. on it. It always starts right up and is ready to go.

"My **Sears Craftsman** 4 1/2-in. right angle grinder was only about 6 mo. old when the motor burned up. I was able to use it only 4 or 5 times. Next time I'll go with a different brand."

Tim Reisenauer, Kennewick, Wash.: "I used a **DeWalt** 12-volt drill-driver for many years and it performed well. When I needed a new one last winter, the 12-volt model was no longer available so I bought two **DeWalt** 18-volt drill-drivers. Unfortunately, neither one holds the bit tight. One of the batteries won't hold a charge, and one of the chargers doesn't work properly."

Thad Scott Stuart, Summerdale, Ala.: "My **Hustler** Raptor commercial zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 25 hp. engine and 54-in. deck works as good as advertised. It'll fly through knee-deep cogon grass, which is very tough, without bogging down. A 25 hp. engine powering a 54-in. deck like this is impressive."

Charles R. Trubey, Arcadia, Ind.: "About a year ago I bought a **Black & Decker** LST 400 cordless weedeater and it's the best I've ever used. It's lightweight and can run non-stop for almost an hour. It comes with automatic string release and there's never any string entanglement. No problems. I'm completely satisfied with this string trimmer."

Fred Fowler, Afton, N.Y.: "I like the combination cordless drill and light set I bought 3 years ago at **Harbor Freight**. After using dozens of different cordless drills with batteries that didn't last, I had about given up. Then I bought this set for \$19.95, mainly for the light. However, I discovered the drill works good and the battery holds up. Best of all, a replacement battery costs only \$12.95."

Milo Buchholz, Fingal, N. Dak.: "As a kid I found a **MacKissic** walk-behind Merry Tiller for my mother and it was an awesome machine. Well, my mother eventually gave this walk-behind rototiller to my brother for his small garden and I borrowed it from him

"Best Buy" Garden Tools

"Last spring I helped set out plants at a friend's place and used a garden and bulb planter called the **Hound Dog** that I bought at Home Depot (www.homedepot.com)," says Warren Farley, Jackson, Ohio. "This stand-up tool easily cuts holes and then expels the soil right where you want it. It comes with a T-grip handle and a trigger that's used to open digging spades at the bottom to release the soil. The design guarantees consistent depth when doing a lot of transplanting.

"It's a good product when used properly. A lot of reviews on it are negative, but I don't think those people are using the tool properly. They're pushing down on the handle which eventually will cause it to break, instead of stepping down on the pegs at the bottom like you're supposed to. I've used my **Hound Dog** to punch thousands of holes without breaking anything."

The **Hound Dog** sells for \$31.90 plus S&H.

Farley applies lime and calcium nitrate to each hole before setting a plant. It's a painstaking process since he usually sets out 400 to 500 plants a day. So he searched for a device that would release a pre-measured amount of product and found the **Instant Joy** dispenser for powdered coffee and creamer (www.instantjoydispenser.com; ph 760 754-8838). It comes in wall-mount and stand-alone versions. For both models you place your cup under the dispenser, then rotate a dial to automatically release a half teaspoonful of powdered ingredient into your cup.

Farley adapted the dispenser for applying fertilizer.

"I screwed two wall-mount dispensers onto a piece of plywood, added some 1 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipe and came up with a new tool for garden work," says Farley. "It has speeded up the process by letting me put both amendments in the ground at one time. The pipe is held in place by two blocks of wood screwed onto the plywood. A Y coupling between the blocks is fastened to another short length of pipe that leads to one of the dispensers. The dispensers aren't fastened to the pipes,



Hound Dog digger (above left) makes it easy to make holes for bulbs or transplants. He turned a wall-mount coffee dispenser into a standup fertilizer applicator (above and at left).

which lets me see the product fall into the pipes and also makes it easy to remove the dispensers for refilling."

A 1-in. pvc handle is mounted on back of the plywood. Farley also screwed a bell-shaped, 2 to 4-in. pvc adapter to the bottom of the pipe and mounted a smaller 1 1/2 to 2-in. adapter inside it. The smaller adapter had to be reamed out to fit over the 1 1/2-in. pipe and slid about 6 in. up from the bottom.

"I hold onto the handle with one hand and rotate the dispensers' dials with my other hand. The design lets me set the pipe over the hole and dispense fertilizer without the pipe contacting the bottom of the hole and possibly plugging with soil," says Farley.

The **Instant Joy** dispenser sells for \$26.95 plus S&H.

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for many years. I finally decided to buy one for myself.

"The machine is made in Pennsylvania and isn't sold in my area, so I called and made a deal over the phone with my credit card number. The rototiller I bought was built in May 2015 with a **Briggs & Stratton** engine. I was told there was a backlog on these machines because they're so much in demand. The company charged my credit card right away and we finally got the machine about 6 weeks later.

"The machine started good and ran good until I would hit a hard spot, and then it would bounce and the engine would miss like it got too much gas. The carburetor was sealed with no adjustments. I generally use the machine only for an hour or so at a time, because by then I'm sick of the engine misses. Also, when I laid the machine back on its handlebars oil ran out of the air cleaner. That never happened on our original Merrytiller.

"The company's warranty says they won't warrant the engine, so the **Better Business Bureau** in Pennsylvania says they can do nothing to help."

Greg Kropf, Westphalia, Kansas: "In 2015 I bought a **Masterforce** 20-volt lithium ion 1/2-in. cordless drill at Menards. Someone writing in to **FARM SHOW** had

recommended it. After 2 years of moderate to heavy use this drill is still holding up well. Battery life is better than expected.

"That same year I bought a **Round Top** hoop building at Menards. I really like this building, but unless you live in an area with no wind it won't last long. The building swayed back and forth in any breeze, even though it was properly anchored. The canvas started wearing on the corners and then it began to rip. Lesson learned."

Daniel Wood, Nunda, N.Y.: "I bought my 2010 **Ford** F-150 crewcab pickup used in 2014 with about 108,000 miles on it, and have put another 100,000 miles or so on it without any problems. It has required only routine maintenance."

John Kocur, Carlisle, Iowa: John's impressed with his 2015 **Ridgid** cordless drill and impact driver. "I got this tool as a Christmas present and didn't think it would hold up to a Milwaukee or the like, but even though I've really used it hard it still keeps going. It has decent power for what it costs."

Dale Jarvis, Theodosia, Mo.: "The 2004 **Dodge** Dakota pickup I bought used in 2005 has never let me down. It doesn't use any oil, and at 128,264 miles all I've had to replace are the battery and tires.