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"The shaker drops berries nicely without damaging the plant. It does take the leaves out as well, so you need a way to catch the berries and later remove the leaves.

"We like the Atrax Electric 4 so much that we have become distributors for Spacesonic, the Greek company that makes it. Hand slapping or building your own shaker is fine for up to 20 bushes. However, if you are growing fruit to sell and have up to a couple acres, you need some mechanical assistance. The Atrax Electric 4 is the next step up."

Jerry Weaver, East Bethany, N.Y.: "I'm well pleased with my 2016 **Kubota** L2501 loader tractor which I bought with a quick-tach bucket and pallet forks. I use this tractor for snow removal and bush hogging, and to operate a 3-pt. rototiller and log splitter. I use the pallet forks a lot."

David A. Post, Hillsboro, Ohio: "I like the **Lynxx** 40-volt cordless chainsaw equipped with a 14-in. bar that I bought at Harbor Freight. I paid \$169.99 for it. This saw cuts surprisingly well and the battery holds a charge for a long time. It'll easily cut through 4 to 6-in. dia. branches, and one time I even used it on an 18-in. dia. chunk of Sycamore wood with no problems. I also bought a **Lynxx** pole saw equipped with a 10-in. bar and like it, too."

Marvin Hammer, Bartow, Fla.: Marvin's impressed with his **Troy-Bilt** Super Bronco lawn tractor equipped with a Kohler engine and 50-in. deck. "I bought it after my Deere riding mower equipped with a 25 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine blew a bottom seal at 139 hrs. Florida grass grows fast so I had to buy another mower while waiting for repair parts. After doing some research I decided to buy the Bronco. It worked so good that I never put the deck back on the Deere, which I now use as a run-around tractor.

"The Troy-Bilt cuts much better than the Deere, and I liked it so much that I bought a second one as a backup."

B. Clayton Shumpert, West Columbia, S.C.: "The best cordless drill I've ever owned was a **DeWalt** 20-volt model with lithium ion batteries, which was a gift from my son. It has a lot of power, and the batteries last a long time between charges and also charge quickly. It's a great drill. I like it much better than my Sears Craftsman."

Stanley Broda, Catawissa, Penn.: Stanley's the owner of a 2015 **Toro** 42-in. zero-turn riding mower equipped with a steering wheel. "I've replaced the battery. Otherwise it has required only routine maintenance."

Alfred O. Ohlson, New Salem, Mass.: "In 1982 I bought a used 1972 **Massey Ferguson** 135 tractor. I put in an orchard and did all the landscape work by myself using this tractor and related equipment. I also own and manage 2 large tree farms and used the tractor to maintain the roads and trails on those properties. As the maintenance became more involved, I gave the tractor to my son and purchased a new **Massey Ferguson** 4-WD 4608L model, which now has about 89 hrs. on it. I hope it works as well as the 135."

Kenneth G. Tupper, Canton, N.Y.: "My 2016 **Chevrolet** 2500 HD Duramax pickup equipped with an Allison transmission has a lot of power, is fuel efficient, and a pleasure to drive."

Stan McCarty, Promise City, Iowa: "I use my 2006 **Poulan** lawn tractor to mow my 1-acre lawn. I've replaced a broken deck clutch control cable and both blade spindles, but otherwise this tractor has required only routine maintenance. The blade spindle bearings got dry and wore out. Unfortunately, there's no easy way to grease them as they're

sealed bearings. The deck still has the original drive belt."

Delmar R. Cornett, Independence, Va.: Delmar's happy with the **Lynxx** 40-volt cordless chainsaw he bought at Harbor Freight. "This saw cuts good and is always ready to go. I use it a lot to cut up tree limbs.

"The blade on my **Cobalt** reciprocating saw constantly works loose and vibrates."

James Wilhite, Jefferson, Ga.: James is the satisfied owner of a 2016 **Kubota** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a diesel engine. "We use it to cut 5 or 6 acres of grass about 8 times per year. It has about 275 hrs. on it and works flawlessly, but it goes through blades pretty fast. It's now on its fifth or sixth set of blades, which cost about \$60 per set. Otherwise, it cuts fast with no major problems."

"The engine shuts off every time the car stops."

Lanny Boes, Fostoria, Ohio: "Our 2001 **Apache** self-propelled sprayer works great. It's fast and efficient, and is lightweight to go through soft fields. Both the dealer and company have been very helpful whenever we've needed parts.

"I've owned several **Buick** cars over the years, but our 2017 model will be the last. The engine shuts off every time the car stops, regardless of engine temperature or whether the air conditioner is on or off. Also, the doors lock 3 seconds after I get out of the car, even when I park it in the garage. It's a case of artificial intelligence gone too far."

Richard Barngrover, Wakarusa, Kansas: "I find my **Snap-on Tools** work socks to be very comfortable and long lasting. The company also offers pink socks for ladies. The socks sell for \$5 per pair and are available from local Snap-on Tools dealers."

Roger Brode, Milmay, N.J.: Roger has had success with **Stops Leg & Foot Cramps** sold by Caleb Treeze Organic Farm (www.stopslegcramps.com). It comes in an 8-oz.

bottle, and the company says it stops ongoing leg cramps and also prevents cramps from happening. They say it also works on muscle cramps in your hands and feet. You can either swallow the product or rub it directly on the cramp. According to the company, many users take a capful before bedtime and don't have cramps all night long. "I've found this product will stop my leg cramps at night in less than a minute," says Brode.

Stanley Ohol, Cambria, N.Y.: "Our **Claas** forage harvester is equipped with the company's new rotary cutterhead, which we like a lot. This machine has a lot of power. "Our **Claas** round baler is built strong and makes a nice, even bale."

Dale Kauffman, Shellman, Ga.: "Our **LockNLube** locking grease gun coupler works great (www.locknlube.com; ph 603 795-2298). My only question is, why does it cost more than a good, brand new grease gun?"

"Our 35-year-old **Lincoln** lever-type grease gun still works great without any problems."

John M. McCain, Denmark, S.C.: "The **Rigid** 3-leg sawhorse I bought at Home



"Best Buy" Bug-A-Salt Gun

About 3 years ago Rod Sobieski, Emporia, Kan., bought a Bug-A-Salt table salt shooting gun designed to kill flies. He liked it so much that he recently gave it to his grandson and bought a new one.

"It's a fun way to control pests in your home or yard, rather than chasing them around with a fly swatter. You can shoot flies off windows, between window blind slats, off walls or ceilings, and even off the edge of a book," says Sobieski. "Since salt is lightweight, it loses its velocity rapidly. The salt totally disintegrates as soon as it hits anything and won't cause damage to furniture, glass, wall paper, and so forth."

The Bug-A-Salt is made of plastic and measures about 21 in. long. It operates on compressed air and comes with a hand grip on front that pulls back to cock the gun and recharge the air cylinder. The operator uses a gun sight to aim.

Salt is poured into an opening on top of the gun and gravity feeds into the discharge tube, so every time you pull the trigger the compressed air picks up a measured amount of salt and shoots it out in a small burst. A small port hole on the gun shows when salt is getting low. The gun holds about 60 shots. Effective range is 1 to 5 ft.

"It's a pretty accurate gun – if you know how to sight a rifle, you'll very rarely miss the fly," says Sobieski. "It doesn't make a mess inside your home because only a pinch of salt comes out with every shot. I've even used the gun outside to shoot dozens of flies setting on freshly split and stacked firewood."

He says the gun works best at close range because further out at 4 to 6 ft., the salt spreads out in a larger pattern that may not kill all insects. "It's so safe to use that I've shot flies off my dog and it doesn't bother him at all. I think the Bug-A-Salt is far less dangerous than a BB gun or a pellet gun and wouldn't hesitate to give one to a 5 or 6-year-old child."



Bug-A-Salt operates on compressed air and comes with a hand grip on front that pulls back to cock the gun.



A pinch of salt comes out with every shot.

He says the gun does have a few minor issues. "If you don't use the gun for several months the salt inside it gets humid and tends to break down. Also, the cocking mechanism uses a really tough spring so it's quite difficult to cock. After 15 or 20 shots I can feel it in my arm."

The Bug-A-Salt gun sells for \$39.95 on Amazon with free shipping. It's available in several versions including a camouflage model and a lawn and garden model. "Laser beam sights and aiming scopes are also available, although they aren't necessary unless you want to shoot from the hip," chuckles Sobieski.

Depot is my best buy. It's heavy-duty and works perfect for locking boards or other items in place to saw or work on. The jaws expand, and it comes with a handy sliding lock/unlock lever. An excellent product.

"I bought a cheap **Walmart** brand drill that works, but just barely. It lacks power and doesn't hold a charge for very long."

Steven Fluit, Hull, Iowa: Steven's impressed with his 2018 **Kubota** SSV75 skid loader. "It only has about 200 hrs. on it, but no problems so far and I absolutely love it. It has a roomy cab, responsive controls, a lot of power, good hydraulics, and awesome engine serviceability. The loader has a well-designed hydraulic quick-attach coupler with no wedge pins on the pivot points. The machine comes with a quick exit sliding front cab door that isn't nearly as difficult to open and close as I thought it would be.

"I was a big **New Holland** skid loader fan until I looked into trading my 2010 model for a 2018. There isn't enough room by the foot pedals in the new machine for my size 13 boots, and the cab is small with terrible visibility. However, my biggest turn-off is the engine compartment. I do a lot of my own repair work, but I'm not going to stand on my head just to work on a machine's engine."

Lavern Knori, Perry, Okla.: "My 2018 **Rhino** Twister TW14 rotary cutter is built heavy and does a super job. It has a sturdy steel body and a heavy-duty gearbox and driveline.

"I wasted \$40 on a 2017 **IdeaWorks**

cordless tire inflator. It can't air up a basketball, let alone a tire."

Ronny Davis, Minden, La.: "I'm happy with my **WEN** cordless Max pole saw (www.wenproducts.com). This saw operates on a 40-volt lithium ion battery that lasts a long time, and it can cut bigger tree limbs than I would have expected. It comes with a high quality Oregon chain and a telescoping shaft that extends to 9 ft. 3 in."

Mark Swihart, Mansfield, Ohio: "My **Hobart** IronMan 230 wire feed welder works great (www.hobartwelders.com). It offers infinite wire feed speed control and welds like a dream. It costs much less than other comparable welders.

"My **Hypertherm Powermax** 30 XP plasma cutter plugs into any 120 or 240-volt power outlet. It's lightweight and can be operated by a small pancake compressor if need be (www.hypertherm.com)."



Bruce Stambaugh, Rudy, Ark.: "I bought a 2017 **Kubota** KX057-4 midsize excavator to replace my Caterpillar 303.5 mini excavator. The Kubota has a cab, rubber tracks, and twice as much power as the Cat. It has a