

Commercial Quality Electric-Powered Lawn Care Equipment

Greenworks heavy-duty, 82-volt lawn care tools are a cut above other battery-powered tools, including their own consumer lines. Designed for the commercial lawn care industry, the high-powered, brushless motor line will also be an attractive upgrade for farmsteads. A range of recyclable, lithium batteries, from a 2.5Ah 82-volt to a 900-watt backpack battery, matches power to the job. Tools include trimmers, axial and backpack blowers, chainsaws, pole saws and mowers.

"In the past we were highly invested in the residential market with our 40, 60 and 80-volt tools," says Chad Bishop, Greenworks Commercial. "Our 82-volt line gives commercial operators the power, durability and performance they need. The tool line has more power and a variety of amp hour batteries."

In addition to the 2.5Ah battery, Greenworks offers 4.0 and 5.0Ah batteries. The 900-watt backpack battery is available for bigger jobs with specific tools. This spring the company is also introducing 3.0 and 6.0Ah batteries. The interchangeable batteries let the operator balance battery weight against run time for a particular job.

"You get more power with higher amps, but the higher amp batteries also weigh more," notes Bishop. "Which battery you go with depends on if you're doing light, moderate or heavy work."

Slip on the backpack battery and you've got up to 90 min. of run time with the string trimmer versus up to 25 min. with the 3 1/2-lb., 2.5Ah battery.

The interchangeable 82-volt batteries power both the push and self-propelled walk-behind mowers in the commercial line. The 48-in. stand-on and 60-in. ride-on, zero-turns use dedicated 82-volt 13.8kW batteries that are charged in place.

"With their dual ports, the walk-behinds have 40 to 60 min. run time," says Bishop. "The 13.8kW batteries in the zero-turns provide up to 6 hrs. run time and speeds up to 10 mph on the GZ 60R rider and 6 mph on the 48S stand-on."

Greenworks' Rapid Battery Charger recharges the 2.5Ah battery in 36 min. versus 75 min. with the 5.0Ah battery. Recharge time for the backpack battery is 3 hrs. The 13.8 kW dedicated battery has a 10-hr. recharge time.

A handy accessory for any of the tools using the interchangeable batteries is the battery waist pack. Battery weight is transferred to the waist, reducing fatigue. A 69-in. tether cord connects the battery with a 1-lb. transfer battery in the tool.

"An operator can quickly transfer power from one tool to another when doing multiple tasks," says Bishop.

Greenworks is riding the wave of battery-



Greenworks' zero-turn mower is powered by 82-volt 13.8kW batteries that provide 6 hrs. of run time at speeds up to 10 mph. A 900-watt backpack power unit (insert) can be used to power trimmers, blowers, chainsaws, pole saws, and more.

powered, lawn care tool adoption. In 2016 Stihl, a leader in gas-powered tools, invested in Greenworks because of their knowledge of lithium technology.

"Our tools are quieter and easier to use, yet have the same performance as fuel-powered tools," says Bishop.

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Rare Colorful Corn Varieties

While reading the latest amazing rare seeds catalog from Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co., we came across these beautiful varieties of colorful corn. (Request a free color catalog at www.rareseeds.com; ph 417 924-8917). Here are a few of the colorful corn varieties that caught our eye:

Hopi Turquoise

Breathtaking blue corn said to originate from the Hopi people of the Southwest. Yields lovely ears with colors ranging from slate blue to brilliant turquoise, with some surprise purples. Kernels are both flour and dent types, both often on the same ear. Ears typically are 6 to 12 in. long and there is usually one per 4 to 5-ft. stalk.



Strawberry Popcorn

These popular, cute little ears look a lot like big 2 to 3-in. strawberries. The 4-ft. plants produce 2 to 4 ears each, which are great for fall decorations or making popcorn.

Atomic Orange

This soft flint corn variety sports an amazing range of orange colors - from brilliant sunburst orange to pumpkin orange to russet orange and even the cobs are orange. For an added surprise, it will produce an occasional all-white ear. Three to 5-ft. tall stalks produce one or two 10-in. ears with 8 rows of kernels in 60 days.



Indian Berries Popcorn

Dramatic multi-colored ears are decorative and delicious. 4 to 5-ft. plants yield up to 4 ears each. The ears are up to 4 in. long and spangled with a wide color-range of shiny kernels in red, blue, purple, yellow, and white. Ears are produced low on the plants, usually only about 2 ft. off the ground.



Glass Gem

Translucent kernels shine brilliantly like glass - on the cob they resemble strands of glass beads. The 3 to 8-in. long ears are decorative, but edible and delicious as well. Makes firm little morsels when popped. Can also be parched or ground into meal.



We Tested A Greenworks 82-Volt Cordless Pole Saw

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

This FARM SHOW writer had an opportunity to try out a Greenworks 82-volt commercial pole saw. The 10-in. bar chewed through 6-in. pine branches and 5 to 6-in. boxelder trunks like the proverbial knife through butter.

Using the 2.5Ah battery, I didn't make the 105 cuts listed as possible. However, I did trim off 40 to 50 branches, large and small, with no loss of power.

The pole saw has a 10-in. Oregon bar and chain. "The 27-degree angle on the pole saw bar was a big change from straight pole saws on the market," says Chad Bishop, Greenworks Commercial. "It allows the customer to really see where the cut is being made."

Having a clean line of sight to the bar and chain let me get close to the branch collar without cutting into it. Not getting close enough would mean sprouts to prune another year.

Close cutting was also much easier with the electric start. I could lay the bar in place, raise it half an inch and bring the chain to full torque for a precise, clean cut.

The window on the pole saw's oil reservoir makes it easy to remember to add oil.

Only one real negative stood out with the pole saw. Chain tension is adjusted with a slot headed bolt that sets alongside and in line with the pole saw bar. Every other saw I've used, whether electric or fuel, has the tension adjuster perpendicular to the bar and easy to access.

The tool by itself is \$279. With the standard



Jim Ruen has been giving the Greenworks "pro model" pole saw a rigorous workout on his southern Minnesota farm.

2.5Ah battery and quick charger, the price is \$517. That is a significant upgrade from the \$299 residential version with charger and battery.

"The heavier construction is the big difference, but also the added run time and power," says Bishop. "Residential customers are focused on price, but commercial equipment needs to be able to take a beating. Our commercial line also comes with a better warranty."

Papa's Red

Produces uniformly red 8 to 12-in. ears, with the red in varying shades including deep oxblood and occasional bright red. Compact plants are about 4 ft. tall, taking heat, cool weather and drought in stride. Very early flour type.

