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constant tension on the trigger. Getting water to the base of the plant without bending over with a hand sprayer means using a jet opening. This can splash dirt on lower leaves and stems leading to early blight. Spraying over the top can encourage disease and make it harder to judge how much water makes it to the root zone.

“The One Touch Rain Wand eliminates those hassles. It delivers water where I want at the flow rate I want without dirt splash or wet foliage.

“The Brass Hose Swivel from Dramm makes watering with the wand even more relaxing. I love it for watering multiple plants in a bed. I can saturate the soil to the left, right or ahead at any angle without kinking the hose or twisting the hose and sprayer head. Only the wand changes position. The hose stays as it is.”

Jim Lacey, Dell Rapids, S.Dak.: “A couple issues ago FARM SHOW ran a story on a breed of open-pollinated sweet corn from Canada. Like the circus owner said, there’s a sucker born every minute so I bit, bought 200 seeds for \$20, and planted them. About 100 stalks grew but after some rain and wind, they’re mostly all on the ground. Such is life.

“We have a very good **McCormick CT50U** tractor and loader. It runs well, starts good in winter, is nimble, and is easy on fuel. However, changing the oil filter involves unhooking hoses to the loader, getting them out of the frame, and then going after the filter which often ends up lying in the frame. Do not try to change this filter when the engine is hot!”

Steven J. Weber, Paso Robles, Calif.: “In my opinion, the **GopherHawk** trap is the best gopher killer ever made. Works every time (www.gopherhawk.com; ph 805 486-8225).”

Peter Albin, Clio, Mich.: “My best buy ever is a 60-in. cut **Kubota ZD21** zero-turn mower with a 21 hp., 3-cyl. diesel engine. I bought it in 2001 and it still starts and runs like the day I bought it. My wife cuts 7 plus acres with it once or twice a week. In 2015 I replaced the battery. Otherwise, all it has needed is fluid, filters and grease, all done by the book. It’s still original, including all the belts and hoses.”

Richard A. Rice, Waverly, Tenn.: “We bought a **Predator** portable 8750-watt generator from Harbor Freight in 2017, and it was not used until a storm in October, 2019 knocked out our power for 4 days. When it wasn’t in use, we ran it regularly. Non-ethanol gas and Sta-bil were used and the tank kept full. I put the generator in a building adjacent to the house and connected it to that building as well as the whole house, using pre-made cables. It performed flawlessly, allowing us to run everything in the house and even run a 120-volt line to a backyard guesthouse. We had another storm in May, 2020 and the faithful generator again performed perfectly.”

Jim Holt, Cincinnati, Ohio: “I had a hybrid electric Chevy Volt for 6 years. So 2½ years ago I bought a **Chevy Bolt** hybrid. It’s amazing—a poor man’s Tesla. I use it around town and it has plenty of range and power with 200 hp. and gets 127 mpg highway. It’s a real old-fashioned ‘sleeper’ of a hot rod.

“Also, I loved my **Kiotti CK27** tractor very much until I ran into a starting problem. My dealer told me they were sold with a defective ignition switch which also controls fuel solenoids and glow plugs. I installed the replacement plugs and problem solved. This tractor is great.

“My **Lynx** battery-powered blower from Harbor Freight is also a best buy. It has fallen

off my utility vehicle countless times but still blows as hard as my Stihl 2-cycle blower.”

Larry Frederickson, Monmouth, Ill.: “I’ve used **Starbar Quickstrike** fly bait since the 1960’s with great success, killing tens of thousands of flies with it. Recently, however, I bought a new can in 2018 and it didn’t work. I called and wrote the company but could not get hold of anyone. This year I bought another can and it didn’t work either. In fact, I trapped a fly and exposed him directly to it and he didn’t die. This time I got hold of someone and they said they’d get back to me. After 30 days, nothing.”

“After 30 days, nothing.”

David Simpler, Elkton, Md.: “PB Blaster Corp. makes a heavy-duty protectant called **Corrosion Stop**, which I think is the best rust stopper money can buy (www.blastercorp.com; ph 800 858-6605). It comes in an 11-oz. aerosol can and protects surfaces by creating a protective barrier that eliminates the possibility of rust and oxidation on metal surfaces. It lasts a long time on equipment that’s kept outside. I sprayed it on a Landpride finish mower that had sat outside for more than a year, and the protectant is still on there.

“Works better than primer or paint. Also, it doesn’t evaporate like other sprays so it makes a great lubricant for moving parts.”

Bill Finkbone, Clarksville, Ohio: “It didn’t take long for my **Millermatic 211** mig welder to pay for itself. It operates on 120 or 240 volts and can handle big jobs on low voltage. This welder is easy to set up and has excellent arc characteristics. I keep it in my pickup and use it almost every day.”

W. Pat McGrath, Oxford, Miss.: He’s satisfied with his 1992 **MTD** riding mower equipped with an 18 hp. engine and 46-in. deck. “After all these years this mower is still going strong. I use it to mow a 1-acre lot and have replaced just 4 belts and 4 sets of blades, as well as 2 choke cables.”

Trevor Hrapstead, Gretna, Manitoba: “Our 2018 **Cub Cadet RZT L50** Fab KW zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 50-in. deck cuts nice and runs good. The seat is quite comfortable.”

Rachel Watts, Delbarton, W. Va.: Rachel says her 2019 **Sears Kenmore** Series 200 washing machine equipped with a triple

“I woudn’t recommend this washing machine to anyone.”

action agitator is a “worst buy”. “Whenever I put pajamas or blue jeans into the machine, the legs get tangled in knots and I have to untangle them. It also stretches the legs. Long sleeves get tangled the same way and it doesn’t clean blankets very well, either. I wouldn’t recommend this washing machine to anyone.”

John Lekwa, Story City, Iowa: John likes his 2015 **Deere 4044M** tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission and model 170 front-end loader. “It’s comfortable to operate, has a lot of power, and starts easy in winter. I use it every day on my acreage. On the downside, there’s no way to know when the loader bucket is level.”

Eliot Evans, Eliot, Inc., Joice, Iowa: Eliot says his “worst buy” is the **Montezuma**

“Best Buy” Trimmer String



Manthey bought a spool of CF3 Pro weed trimmer string at a Stihl dealership, and says it mowed tough material right off with no problem.

“I’ve tried a half-dozen different types of plastic line for my Stihl trimmer over the years and they’ve all produced the same mediocre results,” says Lorn Manthey, FARM SHOW Contributing Editor from Northfield, Minn. “Either the string doesn’t feed correctly, doesn’t cut heavy grass, or it breaks off, especially if I trim along the landscape blocks,” Manthey says. “I was at the Stihl dealership awhile back and the parts manager says ‘if you use CF3 Pro you’ll never use anything else’.” Manthey bought a spool of the orange and dark gray line even though it cost considerably more.

“I could tell when I cut the pieces to install them that it sure seemed tougher than other lines I’ve used,” Manthey says. “When I fired up the trimmer on the tall, thick and matted grass next to a block building it mowed the material right off without even lowering rpm’s on the power head. The parts manager told me the line is formed with a 3-component extrusion technology and it cuts like a sharp razor blade.”

Manthey says he trimmed about 150 ft. of tall grass and the ends of both string pieces showed hardly any wear. “Then I reached under evergreen trees and cut off small volunteer box elders and later mowed

XL450B 36-in. portable Triangle SAE and metric toolbox he bought on Amazon. It has a multi-tier design with 16-ga. construction and a lock and latching system.

“I bought this toolbox to hold my sockets so they’d be easy to find. However, the toolbox is made poorly and there’s not enough room for all my sockets. I tried to return the toolbox, but the company wouldn’t answer my emails.”

Donald Bradbury, Bridgewater, N.Y.: “I love my 2018 **Kubota B2301** tractor, which is equipped with a 50-in. snowblower and 60-in. mower deck.”

Rexford C. Reynolds III, Athol, N.Y.: “It has plenty of room in the cab and a very appealing style,” says Rexford about his 2016 **Chevrolet** Colorado 4-door, 4-WD longbed pickup equipped with an automatic transmission. “I bought this pickup to haul my grandchildren. It handles a heavy payload with ease and is fuel efficient, too, getting up to 28 mpg on long hauls. It has a nice silver color and I still get compliments on its looks.”

David P. Anderson, Groveland, N.Y.: He’s impressed with the parts and service offered by **All States Ag Parts** (www.TractorPartsASAP.com; ph 877 530-4430). “I ordered steering arms and spindles from this company for my 1978 Allis Chalmers 7020 tractor. They offer great customer service.”

On the other hand, “I bought a rebuilt distributor from **All States Ag Parts** for my Ford 8N tractor. It was missing some parts so I had to use parts from the tractor’s old distributor to complete the rebuilt one.”

Rans Kennicott, Berryville, Va.: “My **Harbor Freight** portable 10-ton hydraulic ram works great.”

On the negative side, he lists his **Kubota ZD326** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. “At about 40 hrs. the engine started smoking. The dealer said the engine was worn out and the warranty had expired. He offered to sell me a new engine for \$4,500, or I could buy a new mower at the retail price and he would give me a \$2,000 trade-in for my old mower.

“A friend who also is a Kubota service manager said the problem was a blown cylinder gasket. However, it seems they don’t repair mower engines anymore, they just replace them.”

off some giant ragweeds with stems the size of a little finger without a problem. Slicing weeds out of sidewalk and cement cracks was also easy, so I’d recommend this product to anyone who wants an outstanding trimming line, the best I’ve ever used. The only drawback is that a person has to be very careful around trees because the string will cut through the bark layer and scar the wood much easier than other line.”

Manthey says even the packaging for the CF3 Pro is excellent because the unused line can be held tight in small notches on the spool, ready for the next use.

Robbie Corley, Middleburg, Fla.: “It’s the best pickup I’ve ever owned,” says Robbie about his 1996 **Ford** Ranger with more than 300,000 miles on it. “I can easily maneuver this pickup into tight places, and it does a great job of pulling my trailer. But what I like best is that the bed sides are low enough to reach over and grab items.”

Jim Havig, Osage, Iowa: Jim is satisfied with his 2017 **New Holland** Boomer 33 tractor equipped with a front-end loader and grapple fork. “It has about 450 hrs. on it with no problems at all. It’s equipped with a hydrostatic transmission which makes it easy to get around. I use the grapple fork to move brush. The inside front wheel bearings on the tractor leaked at about 100 hrs., but the dealer made the repair at no charge.”

Larry Donaldson, Acworth, Ga.: Larry’s disappointed with **Ridgid** cordless power tools. “These tools are supposed to come with a lifetime warranty, but it’s a joke. It’s almost impossible to reach their customer service. Also, no one I know keeps all the model numbers, serial numbers, and date of purchase information they require

“It was almost impossible to reach their customer service.”

the customer to provide just to get a tool replaced.”

Harry M. Roy, Middlebury, Ind.: He’s impressed with the 2008 **Chevrolet** Colorado 4-WD crew cab pickup he bought used with about 95,000 miles on it. It’s equipped with a 3.7-liter, 5-cyl. engine. “I’m amazed at how much power and torque this little engine has. It still doesn’t use any oil and gets about 20 mpg. I use Mobil 1 synthetic motor oil.”

Jerry D. Gillette, Paw Paw, Mich.: “My **WheelHorse 520H** garden tractor is the best tractor I’ve ever owned. It has about 1,750 hrs. on it. I use it to mow about 4 acres and also to blow snow and rototill my garden. I also bought a used **WheelHorse** garden tractor with about 500 hrs. on it, which needs some work. It’s too bad they quit building these tractors. They work great.”

Larry Breeze III, Flora, Ind.: “The