

**Frederick Thorsby, Flushing Twp., Mich.** “I learned about **Perma-Zyme**, a polymer that bonds the particles in gravel roads to make a stronger and better surface, in a virtual discussion presented in cooperation with the Genesee County Road Commission ([www.substrata.us](http://www.substrata.us)). Our township decided to try it on a couple different roads and the results are fantastic. We used it on a one-mile gravel road that hadn’t been resurfaced in more than 20 years and another road that had been resurfaced with 23A limestone two years ago. After the product cured, the road was rock solid without any potholes. We also didn’t need chloride for dust control. We’re looking forward to seeing the roads after our winter weather, but so far the product has met our expectations.”



**Tourne-Sol Cooperative Farm, Quebec:** “We bought a **Planet Jr. BP-1** power unit several years ago for use in our vegetable operation. It’s an extremely handy and versatile machine that we use for tillage, planting and weeding. It can be set up to cultivate between wide-spaced rows for crops like corn or asparagus. It can also straddle and weed a single row or even three rows of smaller crops. It’s truly a multipurpose power unit.

“Our unit was gas-powered, but we recently swapped that engine out for a battery-powered electric motor. It’s quiet, efficient and very reliable. We’ve collected a small arsenal of weeding tools including a tine weeder and several hitches and fiendishly clever clamps from **Thiessen Tillage Equipment** ([www.thiessentillage.com](http://www.thiessentillage.com)). We acquired **Bezzeries** Spydres, 9-in. finger weeders and low angle ‘A-blade’ knives from **Tilmor** ([www.tilmor.com](http://www.tilmor.com); ph 844 255-5864). In our estimation, for anyone interested in walk-behind tractors and weeding tools, Tilmor is a great one-stop shop, offering modern Power Ox walk-behind tractors and a full range of tooling options, including Tilmor models.”



**Lorn Manthey, Northfield, Minn:** “One of the best defenses I’ve found against Asian beetles is to hang **RESCUE** Japanese Beetle Traps from shepherd’s hooks about 30 ft. away from my Linden tree and string beans. The traps, widely available at Amazon.com and other retailers, consist of a sturdy plastic bag with a small poly packet on top that disperses a pheromone in all directions. The scent lures male and female beetles, who take a whiff and then fall into the bag. Four plastic

panels on the inside top of the bag fold up to form a funnel and prevent the beetles from escaping. I put 3 of these up in early July near the Linden tree where the beetles were feeding and within a few hours there were at least 2 cups of bugs in each trap. One of the bags was nearly full after 4 days. I empty the dead bugs into a pail and throw them on a fire, so birds don’t eat them.

“When the Linden in my yard was smaller, I used different sprays, including **Bonide** Japanese Beetle Killer, **Spectracide** and **Harris Lady Beetle and Box Elder Bug Killer**, **Sevin** and **permethrin** (Eight). All of those worked well, but a good rain washed the spray off and it had to be re-applied. These traps work much better.”

**Arthur R. Main III, Holbrook, Penn.:** “My worst buy is **Evan’s** waterless coolant. There is nothing on the container about what it will do to copper. I put it in my tractor about 2 years back and last winter the power was off to the block heater. When I plugged it in the engine blew up and the tractor caught on fire. I called Evan’s about it and was told the coolant would eat up copper in about 5 years or more, and if conditions were right, the coolant could blow up.”

**Ted Janzen, Mountain Lake, Minn.:** “I’ve had 6 **Deere** rider mowers and they’ve all been trouble-free. In 2012, I bought a **D130 42-in** cut. When it had about 30 hrs. on it, it would die. So I loaded it on my trailer and hauled it 12 miles to the repair shop. It was there for 3 days and they said it ran perfect. I took it home and mowed half my lawn before it died again, so I took it back. The dealer had a half acre lawn and I mowed the whole lawn and it ran perfect so I took it home again. I was beginning to think it just liked the ride to the dealer because it died again. Finally figured out it was the fuel filter. Not sure why the dealer didn’t check that.”

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**Horace Beasley, Bishopville, S.C.:** “When my brother and I farmed, we had two **Farmall 1456 Turbo’s**. They were the best tractors on the farm, without fail. Very fast and efficient.

“My worst buy is a 2017 **Ford** Escape. It has been trouble since day one.”

**Richard Carey, Shell Rock, Iowa:** “We built a log cabin in 1978 with a high open ceiling on one end – and installed a **Montgomery Ward** ceiling fan shortly after. It has run almost 24/7 all these years. Different speeds, no problem. A little noisy now but there’s no way to oil it. Good product.”

**Roger Stephens, Roundup, Mont.:** “My **JBL** Charge 4 bluetooth speaker 202 twin speaker combo enables me to play music and movies at a much louder volume. It’s compatible with any smartphone device and a delightful way to entertain guests. I recommend this little speaker set to anyone with hearing issues.

“My worst buy is a set of **Flo-Tech** chrome headers for a retro-mod truck I am building. I paid way too much for them through **O’Reilly’s** Auto Parts chain.

“Being a **Holley** user for 60 years I am now an **Edelbrock** man as I got shafted cost and quality wise. I ordered stainless steel chrome headers from **Holley** performance. I paid \$327 for them using my military discount.

## Root Slayer Garden Spade

**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** “The **Root Slayer** from **Radius Garden** ([www.radiusgarden.com](http://www.radiusgarden.com)) is the single best spade my wife and I have ever owned in more than 40 years of gardening. And I think we have had them all, from long narrow tree spades and D-spades to square ended spades and everything in between. The **Root Slayer** blows them all away.

“The 44 1/2-in. long spade has a carbon steel blade that is 13 in. long and 10 1/2 in. wide at the top, narrowing to 3 1/2 in. at the inverted V, cutting blade twin tip.

The step is wider than a normal step, about an inch and a half, and angled to keep your foot from sliding off to the side. It focuses down pressure on the center of the blade.

The O-shaped handle looks a little strange, but once you try it, you don’t want to use anything else. You can grab the soft, contoured grip with one hand or two and hold it in infinitely different positions. The company claims 4 times the gripping surface of a D handle with less arm and hand fatigue, and I can confirm that.

“The tapered shape easily slides into hard packed soils. However, it is the inverted V-tip and the serrated edges that really set it apart. The edges can rip through roots in the soil or on the surface like a hatchet/saw hybrid.

“Meanwhile, the twin tip keeps the **Root Slayer** from sliding off to one side of a root or root ball. It digs in as you step down, while the serrated edges literally saw apart roots and root balls alike. The edges are specially designed root cutting teeth aligned in the same plane with sharpened cutting sides. If used in sand, the tips and teeth are even self-sharpening.

“We bought the **Root Slayer** to divide



The **Root Slayer** has a carbon steel blade, ergonomic step and contoured grip O-ring handle.

perennials, and it does that job like nothing else I’ve ever used. We have hosta root balls that are 2-ft. and more across. In the past, I would excavate the entire ball and then hack my way through it to divide it up for replanting. I’ve used D-spades and even a machete. Now I simply step the **Root Slayer** into the root ball, and it neatly slices the root ball into as many sections as I want.

“My wife put the **Root Slayer** to work edging pavers around flower gardens. It worked better than anything she had tried before.

“I’ve used it moving perennials and prying out half buried stones. It is great for digging holes for transplants, too.”



**Dave Perozzi, Canajoharie, New York:**

“Gravity boxes don’t always clean out completely or empty quickly because the sides, bottoms and corners can get corroded, and material will bunch up and not slide. I tried painting those areas with regular paint, which helped some, but the best solution I’ve found is using a graphite-based coating called **EZ-Slide**. It’s slicker than normal paint and holds up for many years. Make sure the area to be covered is washed clean and even sanded so the metal is clean and dry before application. The product I used is available at **Tractor Supply** and other farm supply stores.”

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** We checked into **EZ-Glide** paint after reading **Dave Perozzi’s** best buy report. One reviewer applied it under

his mower deck after washing, scraping, wire brushing, and then using a degreaser. Others have used it on gravity boxes, corn picker and corn head snouts, bean platforms, auger hoppers and snowplow blades. The material bonds quickly to clean metal, wood, concrete and most plastic surfaces. **EZ-SLIDE** is available in quart and gallon cans and aerosol spray cans.

**Slip Plate** is a similar product worth considering. It’s formulated with friction-fighting graphite that creates a dry coating which doesn’t attract and trap dust, dirt, mud or grit. It also provides lasting protection from rain, snow and mud to help prevent rust and corrosion.

In addition to **Tractor Supply**, check with your local auto parts stores such as **NAPA** or **Grainger**.



When they arrived, they were painted with ceramic paint and rusty around the edges. One flange was badly chipped and the wrong size for my build. So I ordered a set from eBay for \$87 that were flawless and stainless. No more **Holley** for me.”

**Joseph Bassi, Blakeslee, Penn.:** “We had **Hughes** Net for both our phone and internet. The phone was a problem from day one and we ended up with no land line for 3 mos. After we cancelled the phone, they repaid us by

not charging for internet. But then they sent us bills with late charges after I cancelled. Also, our new phone company said **Hughes** Net ripped out all the wires for the phone so they had to redo them.”

**Kenneth Thul, St. Cloud, Minn.:** “In July, 2019 I purchased a **Cub Cadet** ZT1 42-in. zero turn mower equipped with a **Kohler** engine from **Arnolds** of St. Cloud, Minn. The machine had a one year warranty. It always started hard right from new but in October,