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provide UV protection. I bought a 12-pack three years ago and have only broken one pair. At roughly \$15 for a pack of 12 they are a great buy."

On the negative side, "I replaced an old septic pump with a **Zoeller** 1/2 hp. pump. Just two days past its 1-year warranty, the seal between the pump and motor failed, killing it. A plumber friend set me up with a better pump and I've had no problems since. For \$260, I expected more."



**Roger Podoll, Wautoma, Wis.:** "My best buy is an extra heavy-duty **Clamptite** tool, Model CLT09 ([www.clamptitertools.com](http://www.clamptitertools.com); ph 800-962-2901). FARM SHOW had an article some years back on this product, but didn't cover the largest one they make. This thing will wrap up to 04 gauge wire and works great on 09 fencewire. I've pulled crossbraces on hay wagons together with heavy wire. I also use it to pull metal pieces together for welding. It pulls so much stronger than hose clamps and I can use my Milwaukee 3/8-in. impact wrench to turn it. I now have their whole set of tools and use them weekly. American made tough. The largest model sells for about \$130."



**Mark Newhall, Eagan, Minn.:** "I've been looking for an easy-to-use water leak detector system for a long time. The ones I tried in the past were not reliable or only worked when you're at home. But I recently found the **Govee** Wi-Fi detector on Amazon for about \$50 and it works great, is easy to install, and great for my peace of mind."

"It consists of a small Wi-Fi hub that you simply plug into an outlet and connect to with an app on your phone. It comes with three small wireless moisture detectors that you can put anywhere. They have metal contacts on the bottom that rest on the floor. When moisture is present, it completes the circuit between the contacts. I put one by our basement sump pump and water heater, and one in each bathroom. I'm going to buy a couple more to put under the dishwasher and in the laundry room. I tested them by pouring a cup of water onto them. In less than 10 sec. I got a beep on my phone. If I ever get a leak and I'm not home, I can quickly get someone to run over and shut off the water. This is one of the most user-friendly products I've ever bought."

**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** "I ordered a wiring harness from **Alexander Tractor Parts** ([www.alexandertractorparts.com](http://www.alexandertractorparts.com);

ph 800-231-6876) for my 3930 Ford several months ago and was told it wouldn't come in until December. A parts tech named Kim left a message on my phone in early December to say the harness was in and she just wanted to check that I still needed it before shipping. When I called back, she was not there so the boss, Ricky Alexander, picked up the line. He took my info and put the order through. Kudos to Alexander Tractor Parts for making this purchase so easy and taking the extra time to confirm that I still needed the part. It shouldn't be a big deal but these days it is."

"Another shout out goes to Randy at **Messick's Tractor Parts** ([www.messicks.com](http://www.messicks.com); ph 877-260-3528) who spent a bunch of time helping me find alternator brackets. From our discussion he figured out the part number I needed but he didn't have the part in stock. However, he sent me an email with the names and contact numbers – along with a parts diagram – for retailers who would have the part. That kind of service from a company who was getting nothing out of our interaction was impressive. I'll be giving them business in the future."

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**Richard Conlan, Sandia, Tex.:** "I bought a new **Kubota** Z128 48-in. zero-turn mower in 2016. It ran great the first year but had starting problems in the second. I learned online that the parking brake switch was the problem. I replaced the switch and that worked for about 4 mos. but then I had the same issue again. My dealer said there would be a six week wait for a repair so I went to another one who replaced the switch. The next year the problem cropped up again so I devised a work-around to get the mower started. Other than the switch problem, it's been a good mower."

On the plus side, "I like my **Rigid** 18-volt lithium ion drill and impact driver. I bought them at Home Depot 4 yrs. ago and have had very good luck with them. They still have the original batteries."



**Gerry Hawkes, Woodstock, Vt.:** "About 30 years ago I bought my dad a **Black & Decker** corded electric lawnmower to mow a steep bank that he couldn't mow with his other mowers. It cost half as much as a gas

## Nut Collector "Best Buy"



**Stab-A-Nut** has a handle that releases nuts into a pail or wheelbarrow.

**Wendy Wellnitz, La Crescent, Minn.:** "I love the **Stab-A-Nut** tool for picking up fallen nuts. We have two black walnut trees in our yard. Collecting nuts for our use and getting rid of the extras used to involve a lot of bending over and/or crawling around on the ground."

"After harvesting what we want, fallen nuts become a problem when mowing the lawn or even walking across it, especially in heavy crop years. As the green husk starts to deteriorate, disposal is a very messy job, staining hands or gloves."

"The **Stab-A-Nut** is a great alternative. It's a light pole with a head filled with plastic tines. I just push it down over the nut or nuts, and it grabs and holds them. It can grab up to 6 at a time without a problem."

"Ejecting them is easy. Just push down on the pump-action handle, and fingers slide through the tines, pushing the nuts out and into a pail or wheelbarrow. There is no mess and no hassle."

"There are two different size heads, green tines for large nuts and blue tines for small ones. The company also offers replacement heads and other add-ons. If you have a lot of nuts, their larger rolling harvesters look like they would do a great job too, but at \$415, they were more than I could justify."

"My **Stab-A-Nut** cost \$59.99 from the website ([www.baganut.com](http://www.baganut.com)) with free shipping. I got the larger nut model for our walnuts. It works great, even late in the fall in heavy grass that doesn't get mowed. It grabs and holds so I don't have to."



The nut collector can grab up to six large nuts at a time.

mower but worked great once you figured out a logical pattern that worked with the extension cord that powered it."

"About 10 years ago I inherited the corded mower and when my gas mower failed, I put the electric mower into service. I found that even though it was lighter than my other mowers, it had more power and torque. For the last several years, I have mowed our entire lawn with the mower and have found that managing the long extension cord is a simple matter. It never fails to start, runs smoothly, and consumes only a few pennies of electricity. There's no spilled gas or exhaust fumes and very little noise."

"Recently I bought a **Milwaukee** battery-powered string trimmer that has twice the power of my old gas trimmer and less maintenance. I also have a **Milwaukee** battery chainsaw that is now my preferred medium-sized saw."

**Bill Hodgson, McConnellsville, Ohio:** "**FARM SHOW** is my best buy because of all the money I've made from the ideas in the magazine."

**Robert Bauer, Hastings, Minn.:** "My new **DeWalt** 20-volt power tools have a lot more power than my older 18-volt tools."

**Paul & Mary Case, Richfield Springs, N.Y.:** "We have a 15-year-old **Craftsman** 'Monster Series' riding mower with a 26-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine, and twin 48-in. decks. It has an automatic transmission, cruise control, and a real nice seat. Every spring we change the oil and filter, replace the spark plugs, and really grease it good. In the fall, we move it into a real dry place for storage after cleaning the deck with an air compressor and spraying rust prevention all over it. The things we've replaced are the battery and 2 pairs of blades. We mow 3 acres every season, an airstrip, and a parking area. I'm 90 years old and my wife is 83. Having a great mower like this is important to us."

**Darrell Larsen, Royalton, Minn.:** "We have an **IH Farmall M** that has been on the same farm since my Dad bought it new in 1950. It still starts right up and does any work you ask of it. They were among the best tractors built in the 1940's and 50's, without question."

**Billy Gilbert, Apex, N.C.:** "One of my best buys ever is a 1976 **Sears** Suburban ST-12 mower that I bought from a friend for \$50 about 15 years ago. It has a 12-hp. Tecumseh engine. It didn't have a hood or dash tower but ran well. I was able to find the parts I needed on eBay to bring it back to original condition. I use this mower all summer cutting grass and then use it in the fall with a leaf vac system I built. All I've done to this mower since rebuilding it was to change belts, oil, filters and tires. I run this mower hard for 3/4 of the year and then let it rest in the winter. The deck is very easy to get off but it's heavy and takes two people to lift it. I power wash it and grease it before putting it up. I keep a charger during the winter. I have two other 1970's **Sears** mowers that I use often that work well. Back then they built mowers to do a lot more than just cut grass."

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**Brian Lazarus, Waterford, Conn.:** Brian's best buy is his **Milwaukee** 4 1/2-in. corded grinder. "My old 4 1/2-in. corded Milwaukee grinder finally gave up after a decade of hard use cutting up scrap metal. The spindle lock stopped working, and if it