

years ago, it's still original.

"My first zero-turn mower was a Home Depot Cub Cadet 50 in. that lasted 3 years. The first year was great. The second year, the deck hanger broke. By the third year, the spindles had to be replaced, and the deck welds cracked loose and fell off the mower. Also, the front tires would come off the metal rims."



Robert Byler, Plainview, Texas: "In 2006, I bought a used Hyster 24-volt forklift with a used battery. Several years later, I discovered **Battery Equaliser** (www.batteryequaliser.com; ph 888-851-4431). I started adding 3 oz. per cell every year and noticed that the battery life actually started to get better. When I bought the forklift, the battery would almost be used up after unloading one semi, but after using Battery Equaliser, I would have a good bit of charge left after the semi was unloaded. I got 14 years out of the used battery before it simply wouldn't hold a charge very well. I wish I knew how old the battery was. Definitely a best buy, especially when a new battery like this costs over 5K."

Dakota Hanisak, Hellertown, Penn.: "I bought a 2001 Chevy 2500 HD pickup with 140,000 miles on it. I just retired it with 287,000 miles. Best value for the money (paid \$8,500). We rolled it upside down 3 years ago on black ice and still drove it every day. It did everything I ever needed it to do. The rust killed it thanks to Pennsylvania and New Jersey brine. These are the longest-lasting trucks on the road."

"My **Craftsman** 20-volt weed wacker takes three times as long to wack my weeds, and the battery only lasts 20 mins., but takes all night to charge."

Samuel Holloway, Riverton, Wyo.: "My **DeWalt** 1/2-in. 20-volt drill is very strong. It does a very good job, and the battery lasts a long time."

Paul S. Claypool, New Bloomfield, Mo.: "My **Crown Royal** 7200MP outside boiler furnace doesn't burn a lot of wood and has infinite temperature controls. It heats my house, garage, and hot water. Dealer support has been fantastic."

Jesse Hodge, Whiteface, Texas: "My **Deere** 6x4 Gator has plenty of power and will go in snow, mud or sand. It has comfortable seats, and the dump bed is easy to raise. I've just bought a second one."

Tommie Robertson, Guin, Ala.: "I bought a used **Kubota** B7300 diesel with a 60-in. mower and 48-in. tiller. Overall, it's a quality small tractor. If it ever wears out, I'll be looking for another Kubota."

Terry Fluetsch, Roseburg, Ore.: Terry is pleased with his 2022 **Wolfe Ridge** 35 C wood splitter with electric start, 30-in. stroke, sorting table extension, and magnum package. "The Honda engine fires right up all the time. The log lift saves on the back, and the table extension works really well."

"Our 2020 **Polaris** Ranger 1000 is the third Ranger we've owned and might be the last one. The first two were good. But with this one, we've had to replace the drive train, U-joints, two ignition switches, a torsion bar in the back, a wheel bearing, a brake sensor, two belts, and the transmission clutch. Thank

goodness for the extended warranty that we bought. The dealer has been very helpful in getting the warranty work through. We just got it back from the last repair, and it's making another weird noise."

Paul Hoekema, Grand Rapids, Mich.: "I attached my **Harbor Freight** cable hoist to the ridge pole in my garage and ran wire so it can be run from the garage floor. Very useful for loading heavy items, moving my snowblower to the attic, lifting the garden tractor, etc."

Brian Marcynuk, Sifton, Manitoba: "I bought a new **Chevy** 1/2-ton truck in 2009. I swamped it, so the warranty was void. I'm still driving it today trouble-free with more than 200,000 km on it."

Darrell Robertson, Cookville, Texas: "I own a 1990 **Ford** 5900 tractor and have had it since it was new. It was built when Ford tractors were Ford-built, not Ford-New Holland-Fiat. I've used this tractor for the last 32 years in the field doing hay (shredding, raking, and cutting). It's served me well as it's a well-built machine."

Darrell hasn't had such a positive experience with his **Ford-New Holland** TL90A that he bought new in 2008. "The A/C and power steering quit on Day 1. The alternator failed in the first year. The onboard computer shut the tractor down, saying there was no oil in the 4-WD gearbox, but the tractor was 2-WD, not 4-WD. This machine has been a disappointment."

Robert Jarman, Higginsville, Mo.: "My **Bobcat** S250 has 8,000 hours and uses no or very little oil. It starts in cold weather."

"My **Kubota** 1100 with cab has about 10,000 miles on it. It keeps you warm in winter and cool in summer."

David Bradley, Watkins, Minn.: "My **Case** 1070 has 1,200 problem-free hours."

Bill Ward, Maple Ridge, B.C.: "My 2017 **Kubota** BX23S is unbeatable. I used it to move 82 tons of riprap and 60 tons of topsoil and fill."

"My 1993 **Husqvarna** 132R brush cutter still starts with one pull."

Bill is unhappy with his 2019 **Cub Cadet** leaf blower. "It's unreliable and sometimes just won't start. Junk."

Edward Burger, Milford, Mich.: A **Land Pride** 3-pt. hitch rear-mounted tractor scraper blade is a worst buy for Edward. "I've used the blade very little, less than 20 hours total. The blade fell off, just missing my feet as I was about to adjust the angle due to a poorly welded cap. When it broke, it was obvious it was a weak design as a small 3-in. weld held it all together. There was too much weight and stress on it."

John and MaryAnn Adams, Medford, Okla.: "My 2019 **Polaris** Ranger 500 lets me continue to work around my farm at age 84 without exhausting myself. I also take it to auctions and loan it to friends who need it."

"After only about a year of use, a piece on the pump of our 2021 **Simpson** Pro Series power washer broke off. We were unable to purchase only the part needed - the only way to repair it is to buy a whole new pump."

Bernie Groen, Tucson, Ariz.: "Several years ago, I purchased a **Kubota** R420 to use in my nursery. It's since been replaced by a 2021 **Kubota** R430 loader. I love the maneuverability and visibility when operating. Great quality machines."

Les Smith, Port Allegany, Penn.: "My **Milwaukee** battery impact wrench has plenty of power, and the battery life is great. It makes changing tires or other tight bolts easy for an old man."

Les is unimpressed with **Ford** trucks and the **Bronco Sport**. "They rust out fast. The new aluminum trucks are too light for good traction. They both have too many recalls,

Power Wheelbarrow Best Buy

Wendy Wellnitz, La Crescent, Minn.: "My cordless, power-assist wheelbarrow from **Makita** was a real find. I picked it up used for only \$200 (tool only). New ones sell for around \$1,200."

"So far, I've only used it for moving crushed rock. It's ideal for heavy loads with its 290-lb. capacity. The all-steel, 3-cu. ft. bucket stays locked until easily released when tipping to empty. The bucket latch was a little off, making it a bit tricky to hook it up, but it was used. I expect the new ones are just fine."

"With a standard wheelbarrow, it's really easy to lose your center of gravity. We have an oversized 2-wheel wheelbarrow, which, while more stable, is awkward to maneuver. The Makita, with its three wheels, offers the best of both, even if it doesn't have a small turning radius."

"Operating it on even ground was easy, although it did tip with the first load on some uneven ground. Like the oversized 2-wheel, it was awkward in tight spaces. Unlike it, the forward/reverse gears make it easy to reposition."

"It claims 100 min. of run time with two 5-Ah batteries, although it'll run on a single battery. Between stopping to load and unload, 100 mins. covers a lot of ground. Speaking of covering ground, the faster of the two forward speeds is handy in transit between



Power-assist wheelbarrow can run 100 minutes on two 5-Ah batteries.

jobs around the yard.

"It's exceedingly quiet. You can't even tell it is running. We had looked at gas-powered wheelbarrows in the past, but they're noisy and would likely be left on when loading and unloading. The battery assist is only on when needed."

"When moving light loads like wood chips and smaller amounts of dirt, I'll still go with the standard wheelbarrow. However, with heavy pavers, concrete blocks, and crushed rock, the power wheelbarrow will be my first choice. Perhaps when I'm 85, I'll even use it for wood chips."

Grill Motor Best Buy

Joseph Costa, Plymouth, Mass.: "My best buy is a grill motor from **OneGrill** (www.onegrill.com). I have a Ducane stainless 3-burner grill with a rear infrared burner. It's over 10 years old, but the rear burner does a fantastic job on the rotisserie. I roast beef, chicken and pork with it."

"The grill came with a motor for the rotisserie that lasted about 2 years. I replaced it several times with motors from a big box store. When the last motor failed to turn the roast I was cooking, I decided to find a bigger motor."

"I found one on OneGrill with a 50-lb. capacity, which eliminated the need for counterbalancing that the smaller motors required."

"It worked great until I had a grill fire that melted the nylon drive gear and the power cord. After taking it apart and replacing the power cord, I found the nylon gear was the only damage. The motor still ran."

"I called the manufacturer and told him my story. He said the replacement gear was meant to quiet the motor, and the other gears were brass on bearing shafts."

"Although it was past the warranty date, he sent me the replacement gear 3 days later. He told me he was planning to extend the warranty to 3 years as the motor seems to run forever."

"OneGrill BBQ Products is a small company that makes quite a few products, including some used commercially. I highly recommend this company."



Grill motor has a 50-lb. capacity and is Costa's choice for a replacement motor.



and Ford is too slow on fixing them."

Edwin Nelson, La Conner, Wash.: I had 20 **Deere** tractors. They were all great with no problems."

Harold Thaden, Wilmot, S.D.: "I have two best buys from **L.G.** Both my 2021 refrigerator and 2022 75-in. TV have been trouble-free and appear to be of very good quality and workmanship."

Anthony Tanzi, Mastic Beach, N.Y.: "My **Ryobi** 40-volt weed wacker and hedge trimmer is 'no fuss, no muss.' Just put in the battery and away you go. Perfect for staying

on top of unwanted growth."

On the negative side is Anthony's 2017 **Nissan** Altima. "At 45,000 miles, the transmission went out. Nissan North America said it was out of warranty by a couple of days, and they couldn't help me. It was \$5,000 for a new transmission. Never again."

David Dingman, Richmond, Minn.: "I have several tractors with **Carlisle** radial tires (www.carlislebrandtires.com, ph 800-827-1001). They have excellent traction and wear really well. I think they're the best tires on the market."