

times until I added two New Idea tedder arms, which are bar stock with a rectangular profile.”



**Josiah Brubaker, Thorp, Wis.:** “My best buy is a 2017 Toyota Camry LE car. It’s the best car I’ve ever had. I bought it for a very decent price with only 86,000 miles on it. It had been wrecked, and there were some dents and scratches on the car. Someone did a good job of fixing it up. It has way less stuff on it to rust. The only changes I made to it were to put LED tiger lights in the headlights and replace the tires. Overall, it’s a sound car.”

**K. Buckell, Thunder Bay, Ont.:** He’s happy with his latest edition Yanmar 223 subcompact tractor. “It has a 2-speed transmission, differential lock. It was an upgrade from our Series 3000 Cub Cadet garden tractor.”

**John Stevenson, Montesano, Wash.:** “My best buys have been several battery-powered Ryobi tools. I have three different drills, a 6-in. circular saw, a 3/8-in. ratchet, a blower, and a string trimmer. They’ve all performed well. The batteries seem to last for a long time and they’re in a good price range.

“My worst buy was a Shop Fox air/moisture filter/regulator (D3271). I bought this to improve the quality of air going into my compressor after I bought and started using a plasma cutter. When I attempted to assemble this, the stub on the pressure gauge was too short. The gauge ran into the body of the filter and wouldn’t allow me to tighten it enough to keep air from leaking. Also, when I attempted to connect the regulator to the compressor, the brass nipples kept cross-threading with the body of the regulator. The soft brass actually wrecked the threads of whatever kind of metal the regulator was made of. I contacted the company I purchased it from, and they sent me a new one. Same problems. I threw them both away.”

**Carl Klippenstein, Altona, Manitoba:** “My Remington Nylon 66 rifle is my favorite. It’s too bad Remington stopped making this 22-caliber rifle in 1989 after being in production for 30 years. It was one of the earliest produced rifles with a non-wood stock. After an early problem with the firing pin, it has worked beautifully for all these years. I don’t have any plans to get rid of this rifle.”

**Dan Janke, Westfield, Wis.:** “My Greenworks angle grinder and 3-speed orbital sander are both best buys. These battery-powered tools can be used anywhere, so they get a lot of use. Great products.”



**Glenn Fisher, Homer, Ga.:** “My best buy this year is a Ryobi ZT480e electric lawn mower. I mow for about 2 hrs. and then take a break for lunch. The battery charges back to 100 percent in about an hour, and I

continue mowing. At 35 percent, the electric blades turn off, and the mower runs back to the charger. I added an aluminum box to the back of the mower to carry rocks and other debris that I pick up mowing.”

**Charlie Gonya, Fremont, Ohio:** “I have a 2-year-old Kubota BX2380 lawn mower and really like it. But the ride is a little rough. I tried letting some air out of the tires, but I was still unsatisfied. I looked around and found I could get an air ride suspension system that would fit my machine, but it cost nearly \$1,000. Instead, I went to a tire store and got some turf tires for about 20 bucks on sale. You can put as much or as little air in them as you like to suit your ride. You just have to be careful when mowing ditch banks or steep hills.”

**Merrill Smith, Deer Park, Wash.:** “My Troy-Bilt rototiller is by far the most carefree machine I’ve ever had. After sitting in an unheated building all winter, I pulled the starter rope one time and it started right up and ran perfectly.

“I bought an electric weed whacker from Worx last year. When I put the battery on the charger to get it ready to do some work, it would not charge. The manufacturer said ‘Too bad’ and offered me a new battery for \$96. Needless to say, it’s sitting unused in my shop.”

**Ed Grant, Penryn, Calif.:** “I’m a fan of Moxie 1800 concrete and stucco additive that provides extra strength to minimize cracking, faster curing, and waterproofing (www.moxieshield.com/1800.html).

“My Rokon trail bike had a dirty carburetor and was running rough. I injected carb cleaner and let it sit for a day before draining it. Ran better than new!”



**Brent J. Bielema, Fulton, Ill.:** “I got a Bauer 4-volt lithium-ion pistol-shaped power screwdriver from my brother as a gift. It’s handy for just about any small job. The trigger and reverse buttons are easy to use. Before I got this, I had a Black & Decker cordless drill that was very heavy.”

**Steve Intveld, Bellingham, Wash.:** “I use Crossbow weed killer on horsetails. After two coats, they’re dead. Works great.”

**DeWitt W. Zimmerman, Tohah, Wis.:** DeWitt likes his 2011 liquid-cooled Grasshopper 729 mower. “These are well-built mowers. It has the grass collector box right on the unit and holds about an average small bale of hay. It’s easy to dump; just back up where you want it and use the lever for the ‘easy dump’ feature. It’s easy to go from collecting the grass to just mowing in about 3 mins.”

**Chuck Conway, Coos Bay, Ore.:** “I have a very large yard requiring multiple hoses for seasonal watering. This spring, I needed to replace several of them.

“I decided to give the Flexzilla brand a try. I was skeptical because I’d never heard of the brand, and it’s a bit more expensive. So far, I’m very pleased with the performance. It’s very flexible and coils nicely. The large

## Community Phone Land Line

**Don Setliff, Fraziers Bottom, W.Va.:** “My Community Phone landline phone base is a best buy. It works, plain and simple. It searches for and locks on the two strongest cellphone signals to stay connected when you make a call. The unit has external antennas like a Wi-Fi router.

“I got to keep my old number, and I feel that the Community Phone is a better choice for rural areas with marginal cellphone signal strength. Local and long-distance calls and voicemail are included at about the same cost as on Verizon’s landline.

“Verizon’s system was a worst buy. It promised to connect my existing landline phone to the Verizon 4G LTE network. I could never get it to work consistently. My first one wouldn’t connect, so it was replaced under warranty with another one that didn’t work either. When I picked up the receiver, all I ever got was a busy signal. Even the Verizon dealership couldn’t help; they told me there was nothing they could do as Verizon was building new towers.

“Even worse, Verizon wouldn’t take the



Setliff is happy with his Community Phone landline phone base that searches and locks on to cellphone signals using its external antennas.

box back or refund my money. I had to pay the rest of the cost for the machine to get out of the contract. Now I own a Verizon machine that’s totally useless.”

swivel grip ends are great and make changing attachments a breeze. I do wish it was USA made. The label states ‘Made in Taiwan.’”

Chuck wasn’t happy with his Gilmour 5/8-in. heavy-duty garden hose. “I thought I was buying the best because it was labeled heavy-duty and USA-made. Sadly, this hose was as bad or worse than the 20-year-old hose I was replacing. It was very stiff, kinked easily, and was hard to coil even in warm temperatures. I returned it.”

**John Stewart, Manton, Mich.:** He’s pleased with his Bosski ATV trailer. “It has dual axle high flotation tires, an electric dump cylinder, electric brakes, torsion bar suspension, and rear brake lights. It’s been in constant use on my farm for the last 6 years and has far exceeded my expectations.”

John’s also happy with his Deere 354 riding mower. “It mows over 2 acres. The 4-wheel steering maneuvers around obstacles with ease. Comfortable ride, good cut, and it’s economical on gas. Great mower.”

On the negative side, “I used to love WD-40, but lately the cans run out of propellant when they’re still 1/3 full. Makes you feel cheated.”

**Paul Peyton, Ava, Mo.:** “My Bauer portable metal-cutting bandsaw from Harbor Freight is reliable with never a problem. The excellent blade guides keep the cut straight. I’m still using the original blade after 2 years.

“I’m also happy with the replacement Predator 3-hp. engine I bought for my rototiller from Harbor Freight. It was 1/3 the price of a Briggs & Stratton engine. It’s got ball bearings and more torque and rpm’s than the 5-hp. B&S engine it replaced. Compression release makes starting easy.”

**Robert Fuhs, Fort Branch, Ind.:** He names his Martin C125 floating row cleaners and UMO 100 fertilizer openers as best buys. “I’ve been very pleased with the emergence using Martin equipment. They help warm up the soil and move residue without moving the soil. We run two spiked closing wheels with drag chains to help seal the clay furrow. The fertilizer openers are a bonus, running behind the row cleaners. This setup has been very reliable and trouble-free through the years in adverse conditions.”

On the worst buy side, he lists Alliance Agri-Pro 18.4 by 38 tractor tires. “The price was cheaper, and during Covid, they were all I could find. But there’s a lot of rubber missing in these tires. It’s almost like going down a size on the tractor.”



**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** “Adjust-A-Gate kits make it easy to build a gate and hang it. We ordered one online (www.adjust-a-gate.com), but they’re sold by any number of big box and fence supply outlets.

“The kit included everything needed, with each set of components in its own plastic bag. Not only that but each bag was clearly marked per the easy-to-read directions.

“That kind of care in packaging and plans isn’t rocket science, but it also isn’t what I’ve come to expect. All too often, everything comes in one bag, and it’s up to you to sort it out.

“The gate engineering is impressive too. Multiple models are available for different height and width gates. We ordered the 34-in. high model with widths of 36 to 60 in. The 34 referred to the height of the frame uprights.

“Once loosely assembled and hung (another extremely easy process), I adjusted the gate width to the opening in the fence. I measured it and cut two 2 by 4 crossbars to length.

“The 2 by 4s slipped into the tops and bottoms of the two uprights, and I secured them with well-identified screws. The crossbars made the width permanent, allowing the addition of an adjustable anti-sag, diagonal truss cable. I tightened it up and attached a latch on the gate post.

“All that remained was to add boards. I used old tongue and groove barn boards, cutting them to length and attaching each one to the 2 by 4 crossbars.

“Just that quickly, I was done. I think I spent more time walking back and forth to the shop for tools than I did putting it together. It was so easy. It almost made me look like I knew what I was doing!”