

It has great power for cutting limbs and brush. The batteries are long-lasting and recharge quickly.

“My **Deere** 5055E 2-WD tractor handles great and has enough power to pull all my food plot implements. The compact design makes it easy to get on/off.”

Ed Budy, Tonganoxie, Kan.: “I received a **Milwaukee** Hackzall and Sawzall from my son as a gift. They’re the best tools I’ve ever used. They hold their charge well.”



Robert A. Chute, Orting, Wash.: Robert likes his **Hougen** mag drill and cutters (www.hougen.com; ph 800-426-7818). “They’re made in the USA. Punches holes cleaner and faster than I ever believed possible.

“Rubber excavator tracks from **McLaren Industries** are expensive. The traction bars rip out, and the rubber compound is poor.

“I had a **Blaze King** Princess wood stove. It was a good stove, but the new one I bought has a different interval. It doesn’t draw right and fills my house with smoke. There’s a design problem with this one.”

John Krueger, Blanchard, Okla.: “My best buy is my electric start **DR** trimmer with an upgraded cutter head. The additional \$100 for the upgraded cutter head was money well spent. It accepts larger cutter cord and is the push-in type. It’s so much faster and easy to load with cord. Just pull out the old one and push in the new one.

“In 1996, a friend purchased a **Howard Price** 72-in. out front mower at auction for \$300 and gave it to me. It’s powered with a Yanmar 3-cyl. diesel (what an engine). I’ve done regular oil and filter maintenance. It starts easily and is easy on fuel. I’ve replaced batteries, blades, and a broken hydro shaft. I still use it for most of my rough-cut mowing on approximately 4 1/2 acres. I give it 3 out of 3 stars.

“For the price, **Ryobi** 18-volt is my go-to power tool. I own many drills, impacts, saws, and a side grinder.”

Rick Schlosser, Mandan, N.D.: “One of my best buys was a new 2022 **Deere** 4066R tractor with cab and loader. I recently retired from farming, and this tractor was a retirement gift to myself. I’m very impressed with the power and lift capacity. It’s fun to spend time working around the yard. Adding options is very easy because Deere has prewired and added mounts for just about anything you would like to add.

“I’ve ordered several attachments from **Titan Attachments** and have found they’re top quality (www.palletforks.com; ph 800-605-7595).”

Robert A. Seefeld, Hamburg, Wis.: “It was expensive, and I had to wait 7 mos. to get it, but my **Stihl** 500i chain saw is worth it. It’s fuel-injected and has a push primer and pull rope. You can set it down and it’ll idle all day. It sells with a 25-in. bar and has plenty of power for a barn full of wood.”

Robert isn’t pleased with **DeWalt** tool batteries. “The tools themselves were pretty solid, but the batteries were trash. Each time I wanted to use the tool, the batteries were

dead or almost there. **Milwaukee** had specials on certain battery tool sets. I replaced my DeWalt battery tools with Milwaukee. I don’t regret it.”

David Priebe, Seminole, Fla.: “My 1993 **Deere** 870 utility tractor is a gem. It always starts and runs well, and other than changing the oil, I’ve had no mechanical issues. I live in the city, but all the neighbors love it when I drive by on my Deere.”

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Kenny Phillips, Gentryville, Ind.: “The **Jitterbug** smartphone is the worst deal I ever got on a phone.”

Dale Carlsrud, Tower City, N.D.: “My best buy is a 1975 **Hydra Mac** 12 C with Ford 98 cu. in. engine that I bought used in 1980. It had been used in a dry fertilizer plant and was rusted. My brother and I cleaned it up and replaced the wire harness, distributor, linkage to control levers, radiator, and oil cooler. With normal maintenance, it’s given me excellent performance for over 40 years. Neighbors have had other kinds, and theirs are down with failed engines, pumps, wheel bearings, hydraulic leaks, and electronic failures.”



John Petersheim, Markesan, Wis.: John likes **Optibelt** Red Power 3 belts. “I set up shops for other people that are equipped with line shaft drives and am very impressed at the quality of these belts. In most cases, these belts have lasted from three to five times as long as other brands and are only a little more expensive. If you run multiple belts side-by-side, the length is a lot more uniform than other belts.”

Michael Garvey, Black Creek, Wis.: Michael’s best buy is his **Land Pride** grapple that he uses on his 2021 Kubota MX5400 4-WD tractor. “I had well over 80 very large trees destroyed when my farm was hit by an EF-1 tornado. Some trees exploded 20 ft. up the trunk, sending the tops into other trees, some snapped off at the base, and yet others were root balled over. At 71, I could’ve never managed the cleanup without my grapple. I was able to cut 10-ft. sections of the tree and easily load them on my trailer. Stacking the branches in piles for mulching was a breeze with the grapple.”

Michael Wood, Bitely, Mich.: “My **New Holland** Workmaster 75 diesel 4x4 tractor is exceptional in every measure. Human comfort is exceptional. I can work all day with A/C or heat, and I stay dry.”

Brandon Pletcher, Piercetown, Ind.: “We bought our new **Kubota** M4-071 cab tractor with 4-WD because my dad needed another tractor to help avoid switching implements on and off and hopefully make work easier for him, too. Other than a noise issue that we got fixed, it runs great. We still need to tweak it a little bit, but we’re happy with it.”

Fly Traps Work For Beetles, Too



Raid Fly Stick works well on Asian beetles and other flying insects.

Dee Goerge, Minn.: “It may not be pretty, and it’s not 100 percent effective, but a \$3 Raid Fly Stick greatly reduces the number of Asian beetles flying around my house this winter. Our building is white, and we don’t spray, so the annoying bugs get in the house every fall and pop up all winter. Since most seem to congregate around a kitchen window and ceiling light, I hang the trap on the end of the light. It doesn’t take long to fill up. Though it doesn’t catch all the beetles, there are a lot less to vacuum up. And I’m no longer bombarded and pinched by them when I work in the kitchen.”

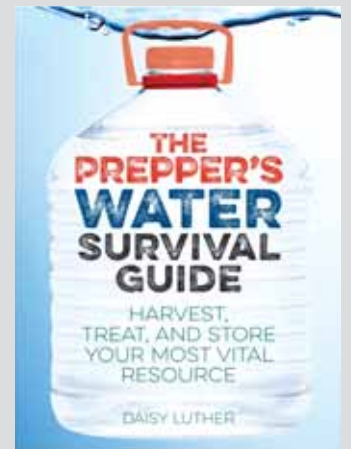
Prepper’s Water Survival Guide

The Prepper’s Water Survival Guide is a book by Daisy Luther that covers everything about water, including how to store fresh water, collect rainwater, purify water from lakes and rivers, and dig shallow wells for groundwater.

Luther notes that people can survive without food for 3 weeks but only 3 days without water. She goes into detail about keeping stores of water fresh for long periods, testing water for toxins, and treating water-related illnesses commonly contracted during a disaster.

The book goes through different scenarios where a running water source was interrupted due to a natural disaster or accident. Luther discusses treating heat exhaustion and dehydration and goes over CDC guidelines for the safe collection and storage of water. Purification methods and where to find water in an emergency round out this book about everything “water.”

It’s a good resource for preppers and anyone with a family who could one day face limited or no running water due to unforeseen circumstances. The 216-page book is available on Amazon for \$14.95.



Prepper’s Water Survival Guide gives valuable information on storing and using water in different ways.

Daryl Hinton, Postville, Iowa: Daryl nominates **Simplicity** lawn tractors as best buys. “I’m on my third mower in 33 years and have had hardly any issues. They’re a great American-made mower.

“My 2021 **GMC** Canyon is a great truck. The ride is comfortable, and it gets good mileage. It does everything I need it to do.”



Ben Parks, Austin, Texas: “I consider my 2003 **Ford** F-250 4-WD Super Duty diesel pickup a good buy. It’s dependable for a 21-year-old truck with 210,000 miles on it. I’ve used it for a lot of towing and hauling and have only had to have it towed in for repairs two times.

“It has the despised 6.0 diesel, but I must have gotten a good one because it’s been dependable, and I’ve only had to replace one FICM module and two injectors, as well as preventive maintenance like head gaskets, water pump, and oil cooler for a total of about \$6,500. I change the oil regularly and use Archoil Friction Modifier to help the injectors. The truck still has the original

master cylinder, starter, turbo, clutch, dual mass flywheel, and automatic front hubs. The body has no rust issues.

“The original price was \$38,640 compared to the \$100,000 you’d have to spend today for a similar truck. This is just a simple work truck with no touchscreens or other electronic junk that just gives problems.”

Barbara Ward, Midland, Mich.: “My one-handed small chainsaw does nearly everything a big chainsaw can do and is much lighter, safer, and easier to handle. I’ll never use a big chainsaw again.

“The used **Ford** Explorer we bought is terrible. The back hatch will only open from the inside, the back window needs a pull string to open, and the doors won’t lock at all. It handles like a garbage scow. The mpg isn’t good. It starts and the heater works. Those are about the only good things about this lemon. I’ve never had a Ford that wasn’t a lemon. The first Ford pickup we bought was brand new and broke down with 32 miles on it.”

Barry Swartz, Harleysville, Penn.: “I bought a **Husqvarna** weed trimmer in 2021, and it can handle the toughest conditions on the farm. It’s been trouble-free, and the battery lasts an amazing 1 1/4 hrs.

“The small **Echo** chainsaw we bought in 2020 is very powerful for its size. With a sharp chain, you can cut anything.

“Our 2001 **Deere** MX7 rotary mower has cut thousands of acres in the 22 years we’ve owned it. Does a beautiful job cutting and it’s practically indestructible.”