

"Best & Worst" Mowers

(Continued from previous page)

objects. A lift assist spring would make it easier for my wife and kids to raise the deck."

• Herb McCormick, Lafayette, Ind., uses his "best buy" Toro Wheel Horse 48-in. 14 hp twin cylinder mower to mow five acres. "It has plenty of power to mow right through tall grass. This is our second model. I like the service and trade-in value. However, the blades should be easier to sharpen. We have a tiller for it, but it's difficult to mount. We removed the safety shut-off switch from the seat because whenever the operator shifted his position on the seat the mower would shut off."

• "My Dixon ZTR 478 turns sharp which makes it easy to get around trees, flowers, etc. It's easy to operate. The engine has never been touched except to change spark plugs and filters," says Lloyd Getting, Sanborn, Iowa.

• "I like its simplicity and ease of maintenance," says Fred Maul, Rankin, Ill., about his 1990 Toro Wheel Horse 520H mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. "However, the control lever for the hydrostatic transmission could be in a more convenient location and the deck should have more transport clearance."

• Dwayne Lee, Charter Oak, Iowa, is impressed with his 1990 Deere 318 mower. "It works great and is easy to handle. It has a hydraulic deck and power steering, is extremely stable on hillsides, and has good traction which makes it almost fun to mow. The hydrostatic transmission works great and the engine has plenty of power. My only complaint is that the safety switch should be located in a different position. It's under the seat and turns the deck off whenever the operator gets off the mower. It even shuts off if you hit a bump."

• "My only complaint with my 1980 Snapper 30-in. mower is that it could turn shorter. Otherwise I'm satisfied with it,"

says Carl Bryson, Iola, Kan.

• "I like my 1990 Ariens mower," says Wayne L. Jenkins, Springville, Iowa. "It's simple and easy to service. The blade is belt-driven so there are no gears or chains to wear out. However, the seat could be more comfortable."

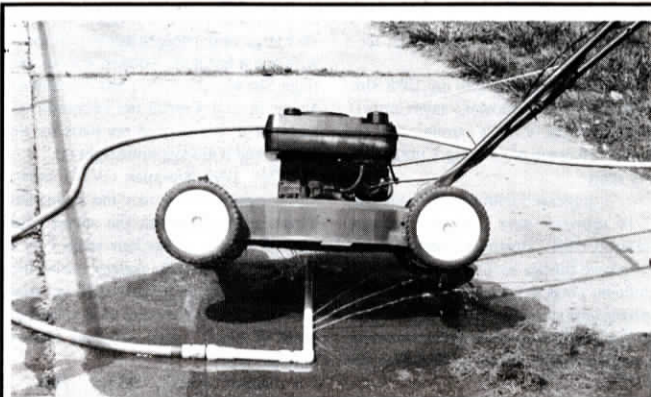
• Doyle Klingsporn, Polk, Neb., is the owner of a 1991 Dixon 361 mower. "I'm well-satisfied with it except that the double blades leave an uncut streak in the middle in tall grass and weeds. Also, the gas tank should be relocated. I've caught it on objects while trimming."

• "I like my 1989 Simplicity mower," says Steve Morse, Whitingham, Vt. "The 2-cylinder Briggs & Stratton engine runs well and I really like the hydrostatic transmission. The seat could have better back support. I bought a turbo blower and rear bagger attachment for it. Works well except when the grass is wet."

• W.B. Wilkerson, Jr., Hickory Grove, S.C., is disappointed with his Lawn Boy mower. "It's made cheap. I spent a lot of unnecessary time welding and repairing it. The deck should be built heavier and designed to flex with the tractor."

• "My 1992 Deere F525 mower works great for mowing around trees and obstacles," says Roger L. Reimers, Denison, Iowa. "However, I wish the deck could be raised during operation to clear rock piles or ditches. It should also be easier to remove."

• "It could use more power and the roll guard should fold up," says George F. Meyer, Russellville, Ky., who otherwise is pleased with his 1987 Deere 655 mower. "It has hydrostatic drive, front and rear pto, differential lock, a 3-pt. hitch, and power steering. All these features are excellent, but the mower is priced too high. I use a 50-in. belly mower driven by the front pto or a 6-ft. 3-pt. Mott mower. The rear-mounted mower requires less power than the belly mower. I



Clean-Out Device For Mower Decks

After years of tipping up his mower up to scrape out wet grass clippings, North Dakota farmer Clifford Frueh got a better idea. He invented "MowerMagic", a pvc clean-out device that simply screws onto the end of a water hose.

You lay the device flat on the ground and position the mower over it and turn on the water. Small holes punched in the pipe shoot water in different directions. With

the mower running, the turbulence created by the blades sets up a scrubbing action like a dishwasher.

It's designed for mower decks up to 22 in. across. Frueh is working on a model for riding mower decks. Sells for \$9.95 plus \$3.50 shipping.

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sawed off the top portion of the roll guard so that I can get under trees and around shrubs. The lower part of the roll guard is needed for the 3-pt. hitch."

• Darwin E. Wismer, Amherstburg, Ontario, is the satisfied owner of a 1981 Deere 216 mower. "It's a dependable mower, but they should do something to keep the battery from leaking when mowing on rough slopes, ditch banks, etc."

• "My 1992 IH Cub Cadet 1440 does a nice job mowing, is easy to handle, and comfortable to drive. However, it could be more fuel efficient," says Robert Conrad, Perkinsville, N.Y.

• Robert Holliday, Dexter, Ohio, is pleased with his 1990 Gravely 16G mower. "It has a low center of gravity and works great on hillsides. It's equipped with a foot-operated clutch control, but I'd prefer a hand-operated clutch control. I like having individual foot-controlled steering brakes for each rear wheel."

• Kenton L. Kroft, Rochester, Ind., says he's generally satisfied with his 1986 Deere 185 mower. "I had a problem with the hydrostatic transmission but it was solved by mounting a new-style fan that blows air out instead of in. The V-belts take quite a beating. I've had to replace two sets."

• "My 1986 Grasshopper 1822 mower is fuel efficient and requires little maintenance. It mows fast and is comfortable and easy to operate," says Bob Seward, Townsend, Del.

• Jack R. Kiser, Fremont, Ohio, is disappointed with his 1978 International Cub Cadet 1200 mower. "The clutch and steering gearbox are poorly designed. I've had to replace the clutch six or seven times so far. I've heard that the newer hydrostatic drive models cause less trouble. The creeper drive for the transmission leaked oil so I had to remove it. The entire clutch assembly and steering gearbox should be redesigned. I made a heavy duty 1/8-in. steel pressure plate for the clutch and replaced the clutch release bearing with a heavier bearing. I also made a new clutch drive shaft. Works much better now."

• Roland J. Meyer, Maquon, Ill., is the satisfied owner of a 1992 Deere 262 mower. "Deere lawn and garden products are generally dependable. My Deere 104 mower lasted

for 17 years and didn't really need an overhaul when I traded it in. I mowed a lot of grass during that time. Maybe they should have stayed with the Kohler engine instead of switching to Kawasaki."

• "I'm generally pleased with my 1988 Ingersol 448 60-in. mower. However, the deck has problems. It's difficult to keep the knives timed and the drive system should be changed. Some belt pulleys are difficult to reach. Low range is a little too slow for mowing. I wish it was a bit faster," says Duane Dysinger, Perry, Mich."

• "The body components could be built with less plastic and more steel," says Ron Houghton, Woodville, Ontario, who otherwise is pleased with his 1992 Noma 1240 Heritage mower. "I like the all-wheel steering. Handling is excellent."

• Layne Twinam, Crawfordville, Iowa, likes his 1991 Dixie 42-in. mower which he bought used. "The 18 hp Kohler engine has plenty of power. The mower handles well but rides a little rough if you drive fast because it has a short wheelbase. It's very maneuverable, though."

• Gary Fugh, Fisher, Ill., owns a 1988 Woods 1250 mower. "It does a good job mowing, is easy to operate, handles well, and doesn't cost a lot to maintain. However, the drive chains should be easier to adjust and it should be easier to change oil in the hydrostatic units."

• "Our 1990 Deere RX75 mower does a good job. My only complaint is that it's hard to drain the oil," says George Alberts, Gothenburg, Neb.

• Allen J. Vance, Neola, W. Va. likes his 1989 MTD 12 hp 38-in. mower. "It's a dependable mower. I've spent little on repairs - one belt and one battery. I like the variable speed hydrostatic transmission. However, the deck mounting attachment and flotation could be improved. I have to disengage the deck before backing up which is inconvenient at times."

• "I'm impressed with my 1990 White LT12 38-in. mower," says Glen May, Atwater, Ohio. "I like how it performs and handles but the price is what sold me. I use a grass catcher in the fall to pick up leaves for mulch. I disconnected the safety switch so I can mow in reverse."



Side-Mount Mower Deck

"Before I added a 40-in. deck to the side of my 50-in. cut Gravely riding mower, it took 2 3/4 hrs. to mow my lawn. Now it takes just 1 1/2 hrs.," says Robert Holliday, Dexter, Ohio.

"I took the deck off a junked rider and fitted it with a 10 hp. electric start gas engine. I mounted caster wheels on all four corners of the deck and made a frame to attach it to the tractor. I can unhook it from the tractor in seconds by pulling

three cotter pins and disconnecting two alligator clips from the tractor battery.

"I like having it up on the right side of the tractor rather than at the back because I don't have to look back over my shoulder so much. One drawback is that it'll miss a little if you turn too sharp to the left."

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