

Variety Of Power Tools Makes Home Gardener's Job Easier

In the spring, many a homeowner's thoughts turn to lawn and garden care -- and to ways he can avoid it. Short of talking his wife into it -- and that's not a bad idea -- his best solution is power equipment.

But now comes a task he must face: how to select the proper power tools for the job, no matter who ends up doing it.

New lawn and garden power tools definitely are in the price reach of most homeowners, and they can give the owner a real feeling of accomplishment.

Selecting the proper lawn and garden power tool to meet specific requirements can be a problem for harassed homeowners who have little or no experience with power tools.

One lawn and garden power tool manufacturer, Skill Corporation of Chicago, offers the following advice on how to select the proper power tool for your lawn and garden requirements.

THE FIRST THING TO CONSIDER, says Skill's lawn and garden equipment expert, is the right type of lawn mower for your yard. You have a choice between hand-powered, gas-powered and electric-powered. Not many people like to cut grass by hand any more. Which is best, the gas mower or the electric mower? Manufacturers of both types obviously think there is the best.

But it really boils down to what your requirements are. For instance, if your "estate" is

more than an acre and a half, a gasoline-powered riding mower may be just what you need.

If you're in an average-sized urban or suburban lot, you will want to consider such things as noise, ease of starting and operation, maintenance requirements, and cost of operation.

An electric motor makes considerably less noise than a gas-powered motor, and this feature can be an incentive toward better relations with your neighbors. On the other hand, some people prefer a gas-powered mower to their "finkers" with it. You can "finker" with an electric mower, too, if you wish -- but you don't have to because of low maintenance features of electric mowers.

Also, you don't have to "winterize" an electric mower as you do a gas mower to make sure gasoline left in during the winter didn't gum up the carburetor, filter and the rest of the fuel system. From a standpoint of convenience, electric mowers are generally easier to start; an on/off switch does it.

STORAGE is another aspect to take into consideration before purchasing a power mower. You may not want to store a gas-powered mower in the basement because of the fumes, and, on the other hand, an electric mower on the wall if needed -- without prior removal of such messy things like gasoline and oil.

Depending upon the size of your yard and your budget, cost of operation is another important consideration in buying a power mower. Operating a gas

mower two hours a week is estimated to cost 75 cents to \$1 a month for oil and gas. On the other hand, operating a 10 amp-rated electric mower two hours a week is estimated to cost 30 to 35 cents a month.

A few years ago, gas-powered lawn mowers seemed to have an edge on electric mowers in power rating. Today, most electric mower manufacturers design their units with power to spare.

There are several other categories of lawn and garden tools you will want to consider carefully too. These include hedge trimmers, combination trimmer-edgers and shrub and grass shears.

IF YOU HAVE MORE than one or two medium-sized shrubs, most likely you are already considering a powered hedge trimmer. (Or, perhaps it is your wife who gets the blisters from your old "hand-powered" model). Electric hedge

trimmers usually come in two models: single edge and double edge.

A single edge cuts in one direction at a time -- say from right to left. When you must stand on the other side of the hedge to cut back again, with a double-edge hedge trimmer you can cut back and forth (left and right) without changing positions.

Design and operating features to consider here are type of blade edge (single or double edge), whether or not the hedge trimmer is double insulated for added safety, how well the tool is balanced, and the weight of the tool. More recently manufactured tools have lightweight, plastic housings. This plus better balance makes the tool easier to use -- especially for your wife.

The electric trimmer-edger is one of the most versatile and economical power lawn and garden tools available today. The business end of the unit can be easily flipped over at a 90 degree angle so you can move from trimming hard-to-get grass around a fence line to edging your sidewalk in a few seconds. It's a dual purpose tool. Look for these features before

buying one: a foot lock on the housing, a blade guard, and a control switch that automatically shuts down the unit when the operating control is released.

HAND HELD, electric grass shears have been around for a number of years. They are designed to get the hard-to-do jobs done more quickly and efficiently. These are the features you should look for in models under consideration:

At least a 1/4 h.p. motor rating; scissor action blades for faster cutting of a 6-inch-wide swath (around your flower beds, etc.), and a unit that will take an accessory roller handle to eliminate bending and stooping.

(You may think it is good exercise for your wife to stoop over now and then, but what happens when she falls to show up for "work" and you have no roller handle adaptor? Be sure to look for a multi-purpose tool, one that can be used both for trimming grass and trimming

your evergreens into desired shapes.

Now that you are equipped with this guide to lawn and garden power tools, you can better evaluate the various equipment. The main thing to remember is this: Decide beforehand what your requirements are, and select the power tools that meet your requirements.

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Edwards-Ostholt Firm Opens New Offices

Two-well known Metropolitan Detroit real estate men who joined forces to open Edwards-Ostholt firm one year ago, have moved into new 11,000

square foot headquarters building in Farmington.

Scott Edwards and Eric G. Ostholt of the Edwards-Ostholt Real Estate Company are

looking forward to a bright future in the new building.

In the year it has been in business, the firm has sold over \$7 million of real estate.

The Edwards-Ostholt Company has had offices at 2507 Schoolcraft. The new headquarters are at 28000 Middle Belt Road, at the corner of 12-Mile Road. The firm will retain the Schoolcraft location as a branch office.

In addition to Edwards, president of the company, and Ostholt, a director, the firm has as its sales manager Jerry Edwards, a Northwest area real estate executive, and a staff of 25 sales people.

Edwards-Ostholt is a member of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the Detroit Real Estate Board, the United Northwest Realty Association, the Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Real-

tors and the Multi-List Photo Service.

The company specializes in new and used home sales. It is the exclusive sales representative for Lincolnshire East, Churchill Commons, Bloomfield Oaks and Coventry Estates.

Edwards entered the real estate field in 1948 when he quit a factory job to sell a new home development on the Northwest side. He's been at it ever since.

Ostholt has been selling real estate since the late 40s and is a recognized authority in the field. Both are lifetime members of the coveted "Million Dollar Circle," award of the National Association of Home Builders Sales and Marketing Council.

English Say: Leave Ashes In Fireplace

Americans can well take a lesson from the English when it comes to lighting and tending fires in fireplaces. They have so many.

The English are fairly neat, but neatness does not count in side fireplaces.

EVERY fireplace needs a solid bed of ashes to produce maximum heat. Ashes prevent excessive amounts of heat from being absorbed by stones or bricks in the hearth.

The English have a good rule-of-thumb: Keep one to two inches of ashes in the fireplace as a base. When ashes pile up beyond this point, remove them with care.

The best way is to put them in a fireproof galvanized steel pail -- not a cardboard or wooden box that may catch fire.

THOUGH NEATNESS is not necessary inside the fireplace, it is important in the area nearby.

Logs and kindling wood should be stacked neatly, not only to improve their appearance, but to minimize them as fire hazards.

For maximum safety, store kindling material in a fire-proof galvanized steel coal hod. Many of the English do.

Get Head Start On Poison Ivy

If you've seen the familiar three-leaf arrangement that identifies Poison Ivy, run, don't walk, to your nearest garden supply dealer and get a can of weed killer.

Then, use it according to directions. Poison Ivy -- along with its counterparts Poison Oak and Poison Sumac -- are just now coming into full leaf and are fairly easy to kill.

Wait much longer, though, and you may be stepping into lots of trouble -- and discomfort

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