

## Cutting Disc Replacement Blades

A year ago we featured cutting disc lawn mower replacement blades from Megli Lawn Care (Vol. 21, No. 3).

As this mowing season approached, we started getting calls about the blades asking why it was taking so long to get them.

We contacted Roy Megli in Sterling, Ill., and this is what he told us:

"We've been absolutely swamped with inquiries about our blades since FARM SHOW featured them last year. We've fielded an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 inquiries from all over North America.

"However, huge demand, coupled with various supply glitches, has put us way behind on orders, for which we sincerely apologize.

"We've never cashed a single check for an order until *after* the blades were shipped. We appreciate your readers' patience as we resolved our supply problems.

"Incidentally, blades start at \$49.95 and run up to \$79.95. We recently added bigger sizes, up to 36-in., to our line. Add \$4 S&H per blade."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Megli Lawn Care, P.O. Box 423, Sterling, Ill. 61081 (ph 815 625-0125; website www.megli-mow.com).

Here's what some customers have to say about Megli's system:

**Dave Henderson, Sharpsville, Ind.:** Dave uses Megli Lawn Care replacement disk blades on two riding mowers - a Dixon equipped with 48-in. deck and a Deere 445 equipped with 54-in. deck. He mows three acres of yard and ATV trails a

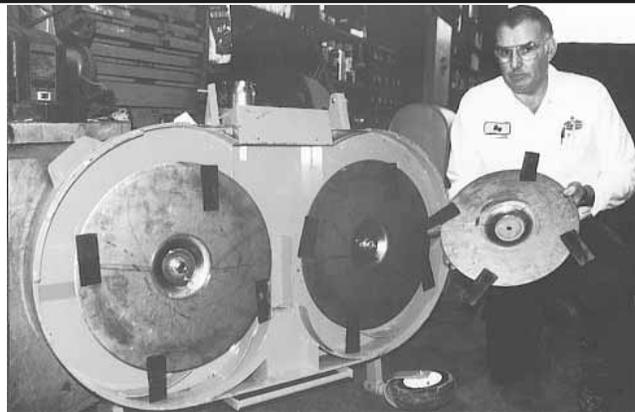
week.

"I ordered a set of three disks for the Dixon for about \$160 last fall, but didn't get them until late in the season so I didn't have a chance to try them out until this season. Once I did, I immediately ordered a second set of three disks for \$190 for the Deere.

"They chop grass up real fine, even when it's wet, so the mower doesn't throw out clumps. You can run the Dixon wide open in bluegrass up to 14-in. tall and it cuts the same as if you were going real slow. On the Deere, grass doesn't collect under the deck the way it did before, so you don't have to stop and clean the deck all the time."

**Ray Dykes, Bloomfield, Iowa:** "I'd recommend them to anyone," says Ray about the cutting disk replacement blades from Megli Lawn Care he uses on both his Toro Wheelhorse riding mower equipped with 46-in. deck and his Homelite mower equipped with 48-in. deck.

"I'm real pleased with the way they cut grass and mulch leaves. The original blades on the Wheelhorse were too soft and I had to sharpen them after two or three uses. The blades on these disks are made of hardened steel. Not only do they seem to pull grass up to cut it off, but they stay sharp longer as well. I've mowed the yard five or six times already



Roy Megli and his revolutionary cutting disc replacement blades for lawn mowers.

this season with them and they're as sharp as the day I put them on. They cost around \$120 and \$145 per set, respectively, and they're fantastic."

**David Willenbring, New Vienna, Iowa:** David's "basically happy" with the Megli Lawn Care replacement blades he installed on his Deere 175 mower equipped with 38-in. deck last summer.

"At \$90, they were four or five times more expensive than the \$20 Deere replacement blades cost, so it was more than I wanted to spend," says David, who mows at least 1/4 acre of lawn a week. "However, they're better than Deere blades, which bunch and wind-row grass badly, especially when it's wet. You can also mow in both reverse and forward with them, unlike the originals. They do a better job of mowing and you can go a little

faster with them, too."

**Russell Mortenson, Roosevelt, Utah:** As grounds keeper for his local school district, Russell was looking for blades that would mulch grass clippings so he didn't have to rake the 34 acres he mows every week. So this season he replaced the original blades on his Deere F1145 mower equipped with 72-in. deck with replacement blades from Megli Lawn Care for \$240.

"I love 'em," Mortenson says. "They chew up the grass clippings and spread them out better than the factory originals. That way, they settle into the grass and save me raking, just as Roy told me they would. I'm not sharpening blades as often, either, because you have four cutting surfaces instead of two."

conditions."

**Ronald Wade, Endeavor, Wis.:** Ronald's generally well satisfied with his 1995 Agco-Allis 1920 H equipped with 48-in. deck

"The 20 hp Kohler engine has plenty of power and easily cuts grass 14 to 16 in. high. In three years of service, I haven't needed even one belt or part. I've just made sure it was well greased and the three blades were always sharp.

"There is one improvement that could be made, however. I'd like to see the grease fittings placed on top of the deck in a bank for easier service."

**Mary Ann White, Frazeyburg, Ohio:** "It has plenty of power to handle the 42-in. deck and the seat is comfortable," says Mary about her 1995 Ranch King powered by a 14.5 hp engine. "However, it shifts poorly from forward to reverse. I also had to fix it so it would mow in reverse for trimming in places I have to back into."

**Lowell Moore, Boscobel, Wis.:** Lowell's generally pleased with his 1997 Simplicity mower.

"It does a real nice job cutting and handles well on banks, which is important since we have a pretty steep yard in places," he says. "My only complaint is that the wheel weights, while doing the job they're supposed to, are made out of concrete instead of cast iron and are covered in plastic. That seems to be very cheap construction but they cost a lot for what they are."

**Wendell Estep, Sparta, Mo.:** "It handles easily, cuts smoothly and has plenty of power," says Wendell, satisfied owner of a 1997 Yardman mower equipped with 46-in. deck and powered by a 20 hp engine.

"I have had some trouble with the drive belt coming off, however.

"I made a hitch for it and a cargo box for the rear to throw trash in as I'm mowing."

**Lee Dean Allen, Sr., Louisburg, Mo.:** Lee likes his 1997 White garden tractor powered by a 20 hp engine.

"It's been trouble-free since the day we bought it new. It's a garden tractor, not a lawn tractor,

which makes a big difference. It has a 3-blade belly-mounted 46-in. deck. It's simply a very good tractor."

Lee built a 36 by 48-in. dump trailer to pull behind the tractor. The trailer mounts on the back of the tractor, has two dolly swivel wheels under it, which eliminates the need for a tongue, making it simple to back up because it doesn't jack knife like a conventional trailer, he notes.

**Melvin Smith, Graysville, Tenn.:** There are pro's and con's with Melvin's 1997 Murray Ultra model 30575X8.

"I like the neat way it mows, the way it mulches, the smooth ride, and the compact size," he says. "However, I don't like the steering system. I repaired it this April, but now it's popping and slipping again, and I think it'll have to be replaced before the season's over. Also, the company should build the steering system so the mower will turn in the same radius both ways. It turns really well and smoothly to the right, but only turns about two-thirds that radius to the left."

**William C. Dausman, Novelty, Mo.:** "It's the best mower we ever owned," says William, happy with his 1993 Dixon 4421 mower.

"The only improvement it could use is a redesigned deck so that it doesn't plug up quite so easily."

**Robert Possehn, Lake Odessa, Mich.:** "Totally satisfied" is how Robert describes his experience with his 1996 Deere GT 275.

"We've had few or no repairs. The seat adjusts easily to each operator. It's easy to see how much gas is left in the tank. And it mows exceptionally evenly."

**Nancy Ellis, El Dorado Spring, Mo.:** Nancy's had virtually no repairs on her 1992 Toro Wheel Horse mower equipped with 42-in. deck and powered by a 14 hp engine. It was purchased in August of 1992.

"All that's been done is putting on new tires and rollers on the deck. We also use it in winter to haul wood and push snow with a 4-ft. Wheel Horse

front-mount blade and 36-in. rear mount blade.

"I only wish they'd equip the tractor with better lights. They haven't worked from day one."

**Mary Frear, Lancaster, Wis.:** A 1996 Grasshopper 718 is the second Grasshopper Mary and her husband, Dwight, have owned. She says the 718 has room for few improvements.

"It cuts unevenly, uses a lot of oil and is expensive to operate - about \$10 per hour (not counting gas and oil). It also slides on side hills and jolts going down hills. Likewise, it's hard for a woman to remove and tilt the deck for cleaning.

"On the positive side, it has a wide cut, is highly maneuverable, and discharges clippings out the bottom instead of the side."

**Mark Simcox, Belle Plaine, Minn.:** "I have almost 700 hours on it and it's needed no major repairs. It cost about \$4,000 less than many comparably sized mowers and is one of the best investments I've ever made," says Mark, well satisfied with his 1992 Deines 60TD equipped with 60-in. deck.

**"I have 700 hours on it and it's needed no major repairs."**

"It's extremely well-built and everything is easy to get at. It's a zero turn radius machine with hydrostatic drive. The front-mounted deck lifts up vertically with one handle so you can sharpen the blades and grease the deck bearings easily. You don't even have to remove the blades to sharpen them. I use a 4-in. hand-held angle grinder."

**Andy Davis, McGregor, Minn.:** "It's dependable and gets the job done fast. The tight turning radius allows it to cut neatly around trees," says

Andy about his 1997 Deere F525 mower. "I just wish the blades were easier to remove for sharpening. I'd also like to be able to adjust the mower deck from the seat."

**B.A. Haynie, Jr., Marquez, Texas:** So far, he's generally satisfied with his 1998 Dixon mower. "However, they should make it all hydraulic driven to cut down maintenance on the drive system," he adds.

**Arlo H. Lange, Brainerd, Minn.:** Arlo has only one complaint with his 1996 Murray mower powered by an 18 hp engine.

"They should change the drivewheel to the same side as the discharge. When turning on a hill it has no traction."

**Rodney Remley, Eaton, Ohio:** "I haven't had any major break-downs with it," says Rodney, pleased with his 1992 Snapper LT 16 mower.

"However, the oil drain plug could be moved to a more accessible location and the steering is a little too tight for my liking.

"I filled the rear tires with windshield washer fluid for traction and stability for when I use my 4-ft. Snapper snow blade. You simply remove the tires and rims, bleed the air, lay the tires on the side, break the bead and pour in the fluid. Then just refill with air. The fluid won't freeze and is a very inexpensive way to ballast the tires."

**Michael Helton, Moweaqua, Ill.:** Michael uses two 1998 M&W 1890K Lawn Clippers equipped with 52-in. decks in his landscaping and lawn care business.

"These mowers are exceptionally durable and do a fantastic job in any kind of conditions," he says. "The large, deep front-mount decks let us get under and around shrubs and trees easily and neatly. Zero turn radius is a big time saver.

"On the negative side, the operating parts should be more accessible so you don't have to completely tear the machine apart to fix it.

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