

Jon Bell, Lyons, Colo.: "I like my 5-gal. **Blitz** plastic fuel cans. I bought them to replace my old steel Gerry cans, which were rusting and leaking. Not all plastic cans are alike. Blitz cans are sturdy, and the threads on the caps and spouts work well. They come with a double handle so there's always a handle right where you need one. These cans don't leak as long as the cap or spout is screwed on tight. I can even haul fuel inside my station wagon without any smells. I like the vent-in-spout feature because it reduces leaks and also prevents overfilling the tank that you're filling. They're available in three colors. I use red for gas, yellow for diesel, and blue for bio-diesel."



Robert De Long, Walden, N.Y.: "My 2009 pto-driven **Timber Wolf** log splitter is my best buy. After one month the pump seized up, breaking the restraining chain and the intake and output hydraulic hoses. However, the company replaced everything with no questions asked. It's the best log splitter I've ever owned."

A 2000 **Toyota** Tundra pickup rates as his "worst buy". "It's a good, basic truck but it's geared too fast in reverse. Backing up slowly tends to burn up the clutch."

Robert E. McDaniel, Belington, W. Va.: "The **Campbell Hausfeld** M3000 portable compressor I bought more than 20 years ago is my best buy. My neighbor has borrowed it so often that his son finally bought one for him. I keep the compressor on my unheated porch and sometimes it's left out in the rain, but it has never failed."

Pat Debusk, Houston, Texas: "I'm mostly pleased with my 2009 **Kubota** RTV 900 utility vehicle. One problem was the machine would stop dangerously fast whenever I let off the throttle. I solved the problem by installing a coaster valve. The rig's top speed is only 24 mph, whereas the dealer claimed 28 mph. But overall this is the most useful machine I've bought in a long time."

Anthony Bivens, Maryville, Tenn.: "My 2006 **Cub Cadet** zero turn riding mower is my worst buy. It does a great job of mowing, but the steering system has never worked right no matter how many adjustments are made to it. The company replaced the first mower I bought, but the replacement model doesn't work any better. Now it's not running because of safety switch problems. The last time I used the machine I could only go a few feet before it would die, and then I'd have to start it back up again. This problem happened numerous times before I finally gave up on it. Now the warranty has expired. I'll never buy another **Cub Cadet** product."

"I've purchased nine new tractors and three used ones in the past 18 years. My favorite is a 2007 **Deere** 5303 tractor. It has more than 500 hours on it with no problems. It has a lot of power and is easy on fuel."

Robert Jones, Healdsburg, Calif.: "I use my 1998 **DR** 6 hp Power Wagon all the time to haul heavy loads. I've replaced the tires and the centrifugal clutch due to normal wear and tear. Otherwise, this machine still starts easy and just keeps on going."

"I've used my 1999 **DR** 6 hp string trimmer a lot on 20 acres of hilly land, where I keep the grass short for fire safety reasons. It still runs great. I think all the company's equipment is well built. Their machines aren't always the least expensive, but they probably cost less in the long run."

George B. Hoover, Greenville, Penn.: "My **Eden Pure** heater is my worst buy. One problem is that it uses too much electricity. The first month I used it my electric bill went from \$51.03 to \$175.83. The second month I didn't use it as much but the electric bill was still \$158. Another problem is that it didn't heat as well as advertised. The company said the heater has a 60-day warranty, and that if I wanted to pay for insurance I could send it back and they would check it out. Now they want to sell me another heater, but if it works like this one I don't want it."

David P. Stark, Riverton, Wyo.: Overall, David's well pleased with his 2004 **Chevrolet** 1-ton extended cab pickup equipped with a Duramax diesel engine and 6-speed manual transmission. "It rides good, runs quiet, and has a quiet cab. It also has nice comfortable seats, is fuel efficient, has a lot of power, and can haul a heavy load. My only complaint is the pickup's rear fenders are made of plastic, which shattered when an elk hit the side of the pickup bed. Also, I can't get a pto for the 6-speed manual transmission."

Gary Willison, Standish, Maine: "My 1999 **Ford** F-150 pickup is a true workhorse."

"My **DR** Field and Brush mower works great. I use it to clear thick, overgrown yards and old reclaimed fields."

Lester Rawson, Grand Junction, Mich.: "I've been using **GM** and **Chevrolet** pickups for years with good results. However, I experienced poor service and high maintenance with the 1996 to 2000 models, including electronic and fuel injector problems. I don't plan to buy any more **GM** vehicles."

Kenny Pangle, Henryetta, Okla.: Kenny's not happy with his 2006 **Dodge** Ram 3500 pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter diesel engine. "The engine quit working and had to be replaced at about 56,000 miles. The fuel injectors went out four times and had to be replaced. The company paid for the engine and the first two sets of injectors, then told me I was using bad fuel and that I would have to pay for the last two sets of injectors at a cost

"The engine quit working and had to be replaced at about 56,000 miles."

of \$2,400 to \$2,800. There were also four recalls, one of which caused me to get in a wreck before I was notified about the recall. I received no compensation, even though all these problems happened before the 100,000-mile warranty had expired."

Alvin R. Peters, Luxora, Ark.: "My 2002 **Dodge** Ram 1500 pickup is my worst buy. The first time I had it serviced the dealer found water in the rear end even though the rear end has never been under water. It was repaired once and now it needs to be repaired again. The pickup has only about 100,000 miles on it."

David Dingmann, Richmond, Minn.: "My 2008 **Massey** 1745 round baler works great and makes a nice bale. No problems."

"I've owned nine different **Gleaner** combines since 1964, starting with a 1964 E model and going up to a 1990 R40, and I like all of them. They perform just as well as brand new models but cost much less, and they get more grain out of the field."

"It seems that all of today's great guns are made in China or India and are just plain junk. I'd gladly pay much more for a U.S.-built gun but I can't find one."



April Probst grows flowers and vegetables inside this 12-ft. wide by 24-ft. long **Lost Creek** hoop greenhouse. It's designed to be constructed using the company's hoop bending tools.

Build Your Own Hoop Greenhouse

April Probst, Fillmore, Ill.: April grows flowers and vegetables in a 12-ft. wide by 24-ft. long **Lost Creek** hoop greenhouse and says it's her "best buy" (**Lost Creek** Greenhouse Systems, Mineola, Texas ph 903 569-8541; herbs@lostcreek.net; www.lostcreek.net).

What makes the greenhouse unique is that it's constructed using the company's hoop bending tools. Bending your own hoops can save as much as 70 percent over ready-made kits, says **Lost Creek**. The company offers a variety of bending tools depending on the size of the greenhouse to

be built. The bending tools are shipped with 38-page instructions in PDF format on a CD, plus a bending tip DVD.

Probst's husband Dan framed the greenhouse and then filled in rock around it.

April starts many of her plants in February in waist-level planters. Mostly she plants tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, cucumbers and some flowers. She also uses a waist-level medical gurney to help move plants around. She markets a big portion of the plants later in the spring at a local farmer's market. She also sells wholesale.

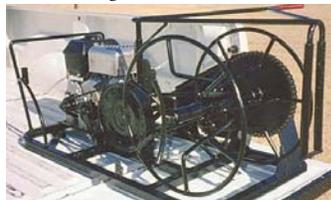
Kenneth Hall, Jamestown, N. Dak.: A 1992 **Honda** Fourtrax 4-wheeler bought used in 1999 rates as Kenneth's "best buy". "This machine is almost indestructible and is a real workhorse on our farm. I use it for fencing, chasing cattle, spraying, hunting, and just getting around our farm. It can pull a heavily loaded trailer and has been almost trouble-free."

"My 2003 **Bobcat** Toolcat 5600 utility vehicle equipped with a loader is my worst buy. I bought this machine used 1 1/2 years ago and since then it has been in the shop more than on our farm. The speed sensor went out and wouldn't work right until it got very warm. Now it's in the shop because it overheated. It's a nice machine to operate when it's working for a lot of different chores."

Lee Miller, German Valley, Ill.: "My **Deere** 4430 tractor is my best buy. It's easy on fuel, handy to operate, and goes a long time between overhauls."

Gorden R. Werth, Lehr, N. Dak.: Gorden does custom lawn mowing and he really likes his **Snapper** riding mower, which is equipped with a rear-mounted engine and 33-in. deck. "This machine is equipped with a high vacuum deck and an air lift blade. It's simple to operate, with only one belt and one blade. Also, it does a super job of picking up leaves," he says.

Thomas Penka, Pratt, Kan.: Thomas likes his **E-Z Roll** II power wire roller (ph 800 999-2198; www.ezproductstx.com). "This is one product that holds up to all the advertising claims. It's a self-contained



unit that's powered by a 6 1/2 hp Continental engine. It comes with a bracket for easy in-

stallation in a pickup or trailer. It can pull up to 1/2 mile of barbed wire and comes with a handy clutch and a hand-operated level wind. Both solid and split spools are available."

David Drouin, Rindge, N.H.: "I like my 1972 **Massey Ferguson** Model 50 loader/backhoe tractor equipped with a Perkins diesel engine. The loader has more digging power than the one on my neighbor's newer **Ford** 4500 tractor. There are no cracks or welds in the loader or boom, and the Perkins diesel engine runs nice. Also, parts for it are easy to get."

"The **Husky** 1800 psi pressure washer I bought used two years ago is my worst buy. I used it once last year to wash my house and my tractor and then stored it in the cellar. I used it again last spring to wash a truck down and then to wash a tractor. The washer was slow in building up pressure, and then when I pulled the trigger it lost all its pressure. I bought the unit at Home Depot, and they said the problem was that my well didn't provide enough water. However, I've never had problems with this before. I took the screen apart to see if it was clogged but it wasn't. The company's toll-free help line is useless."

Richard Puskarz, Kensington, Ct.: A 20-plus-year-old **Deere** 332 garden tractor, equipped with a 16 hp Yanmar diesel engine and hydrostatic transmission, rates as Richard's "best buy". "I use this tractor for mowing grass and for plowing snow, and over the years it has required only routine maintenance."

"The tractor does have one problem. The steepest part of my front lawn has a 120-ft. run with about 35 ft. of height from the street to the house. When mowing I can drive uphill without a problem. However, whenever I go downhill the transmission starts to freewheel. As a result, I have to drive to the other end of the lawn - which has a much lesser incline - in order to descend. I've had three different **Deere** dealers check out this problem, but they're all stumped. Otherwise, I really like the tractor."