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I can hardly cut wire with the pliers.”

**Jeffrey Mechwart, Pataskala, Ohio:** “I’ve had problems with my **BEFCO** 8-ft. flail mower, which weighs 1,600 lbs. I paid \$8,000 for it new and was able to use it for only 15 hrs. before it broke. It cost \$6,000 to repair. I’d like to hear from anyone else with this problem.”

**Delbert Sheeder, Perry, Iowa:** “I’ve put more than 136,000 miles on my 2005 **Honda Civic Hybrid** with no problems. It averages 43 plus mpg in everyday driving. The engine doesn’t use any oil and it still has the original brakes.”

**Carl Tiede, Britton, Mich.:** “I bought my **Farmall Super M** tractor new in 1953. I don’t know how many hours are on it, but I’ve overhauled it only once.

“I bought an **IH 1586** tractor used in 2007 and an **IH 886** tractor used in 2008. No problems with either one. Both tractors start good in cold weather.”

**T. A. Sampson, Canehill, Ark.:** “I bought an **Eemax EX3512M** on-demand electric hot water heater. The website clearly showed a diagram where this unit would support a shower and two sinks. Since I’d be using only one of those three at a time, it seemed ideal. It was installed in the summer and I had abundant hot water, but as the outdoor temperatures dropped so did my water temperature. Even at the sink next to the unit, the water is only lukewarm.

“After trying various trouble-shooting methods, the bottom line is that this unit isn’t suitable when outside temperatures drop below 40 degrees F. The company refused to take the unit back because the 30-day warranty had expired. Then tech support claimed the unit was too small for my needs and that I should upgrade to a larger, more expensive unit.”

**Ray Robinson, Shawnee, Okla.:** “My last four **Chevrolet** vehicles have all been worry-free. They include a 1994 Silverado, a 1996 S-10 Blazer, a 2002 Silverado, and a 2007 HHR. The 2002 Silverado has about 95,000 miles on it and still has the original brakes. I’ve spent very little on repairs. I know that every manufacturer turns out a lemon or two so I consider myself lucky. I change my own oil and rotate the tires.

“My 2005 **Cub Cadet 1046** riding mower has 575 hrs. on it and does a great job. However, the tractor’s drive pulleys had to be replaced because I was pulling a small trailer that was overworking the system.”

**Jerry Cleveland, Spring Valley, Minn.:** “Over the last several years I’ve purchased various clothing items made from hemp and found it to be warmer in winter and cooler in summer due to the fiber structure. It’ll outwear cotton 3 to 1 and is soft and strong. Hemp is grown in most countries except the U.S. It yields well and doesn’t require a lot of fertilizer or chemical pesticides. It has more than 25,000 uses. I’ve lobbied our legislature for years to allow cultivation.”

**Paul C. Olson, Ogilvie, Minn.:** “My 1995 **Dodge 4-WD** extended cab pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine has more than 300,000 miles on it. Even so, the only time I lift the hood is to fill the windshield washer with fluid and to check other fluid levels. This is my only vehicle so I use it every day. It gets 19 to 20 mpg just running around and 13 to 14 mpg when pulling a 22-ft. gooseneck stock trailer. I do wish it had a heavier-duty front end under it.”

**George Carter, Point, Texas:** George is disappointed with **Harbor Freight Drill Master** electric drills. “I’ve used three of these drills this year, and on two of them the chuck broke off the first time I used them.”

**Wayne Hopper, Brussels, Ont.:** “My 2010 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 5.4-liter gas engine is my worst buy. It has about 20,000 miles on it. The rear end went out once and the brakes have had problems. This pickup rides on Goodyear Wrangler tires, two of which had to be replaced because of separated belts. The computer says the pickup is getting 14.4 mpg, but I think that’s a stretch. Now I’ve put it up for sale.

“I like anything **Deere**. I have five tractors, a sprayer, a combine, a riding mower, and several large implements. No problems with any of them.”

**Bob Moty, Crystal Lake, Ill.:** Bob likes his **Unskru** under-cabinet jar and bottle opener (ph 800 506-0248; www.un-skru.com). It’s designed to instantly open all sizes of screw-type lids, everything from toothpaste tubes to press-and-turn medicine bottles and 5-in. wide-mouth jars.

“I purchased one of these units about 30 years ago and it’s the handiest kitchen gadget in our house. I mounted it on a piece of 1 by 6-in. board and glued it to the underside of my kitchen cabinet so I’ll never have to look for it to use it.”



**Kenneth Wood, Macksville, Kan.:** “My new **Morton** garage building leaks snow in every snowstorm. I’ve called the dealer three times and talked to the company as well as the factory. They always say they’ll take care of

## “They drove the last nail in and then they were gone.”

the problem, but after two years nothing has changed. They drove the last nail in and then they were gone. Forever. If I wanted snow on my tools I wouldn’t have built a garage.”

**Neal A. Schwabauer, Newton, Kan.:** Neal’s disappointed with **Tamco Heritage Style 45-year** shingles. “Thirteen years ago we bought these shingles thinking they’d last until well into our retirement. However, cracks developed horizontally across the face of the shingles and they started leaking. We hired a roofer to remove the shingles and sent in samples. Four months later we called the company, and they sent a voucher for the same junk and offered no help with the labor costs. What a ripoff.”

**Don Feenerty, Martins Ferry, Ohio:** “My all-time worst buy is my 2004 **Cub Cadet GT 2550** garden tractor. At 12 hrs. the hood melted off the tractor. The dealer replaced the hood and said the problem was that I was using ‘hot gas’. Okay. But at 25 hrs. the replacement hood also melted. The dealer said the company accepted no blame, but this time after replacing the hood he added a heat shield.

“Now the hood doesn’t melt, but I can only use the tractor to mow on cool days, and even then not for very long. The engine gets so hot the oil fill cap comes loose and falls out. The tractor’s seat has broken three times, and the deck has broken in several places. This year I replaced the Cub with a real garden tractor, a 2002 **Wheel Horse 314**. The difference is like night and day. The Wheel Horse is a great little tractor.”

## Canadian Loves His Big Bug Zapper

“I wouldn’t be without it,” says Lloyd Kerr about his **Gardner Insect Electrocuting System**. “We have a lot of mosquitoes in this part of Saskatchewan and this unit kills enough of them to fill baler twine boxes.”

Kerr spent \$600 for the AG661-30 heavy-duty model and says it was well worth it. At 93, he’s tried a lot of other products over the years and nothing else has come close.

Made of heavy-duty aluminum, the unit is suspended in the air so it works in both directions, says Verl Joch at Gardner in Horicon, Wis. He notes that Gardner pioneered Zap, the first insect electrocuting system in 1938, using an incandescent light bulb. Today’s units use fluorescent black lights. Flying insects are drawn to the wavelengths that only they can see. The idea is to attract them before they go where people are. They’re used everywhere from stadiums, boat docks, parking lots and mosquito-wealthy farms in northern Canada. In a dairy barn, the AG661 insect electrocutor covers about a 60-ft. radius, for example.

Joch notes there are a few factors for effectively using the units: having enough units for the space, proper location and changing the bulbs, which start to lose their effectiveness after about 12 months of use.

“You want to get them in early in the season. In the Upper Midwest that’s by



Made of heavy-duty aluminum, bug zapper has fluorescent black lights on both sides so it works in both directions.

March,” he adds. “You want to get the first adults before they lay eggs.”

Changes in agriculture, such as using huge exhaust fans, have reduced the need for electrocutors in many facilities. Most of the systems the company sells are enclosed units for food service and sensitive areas where the dead insects must be contained.

But for folks like Kerr, the open grid unit works perfectly.

Joch notes that the AG661 model is still available (\$520 suggested retail). It’s the same model Kerr has except it has a smaller transformer.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Gardner Products, 100 Industrial Dr., Horicon, Wis. 53032 (ph 888 558-1990; www.gardnerep.com).

**Edward A. Magnuson, St. Paul, Minn.:** “My **Honda** powered walk-behind mower makes perfect cuts all the time and always starts on the first pull. It’s equipped with the Quadra Cut system that leaves my lawn looking great.

“The ride and handling on my 2011 **Ford 4-WD Escape** sports utility vehicle is fantastic. This vehicle is neither too small nor too big but just the right size, and it’s always a pleasure to drive. A great vehicle.”

**Kenneth Karstens, Massena, Iowa:** “My 2011 **Gravely XL48** zero turn riding mower is a real pleasure to use. My wife has a lot of shrubs and bushes to mow around and it’s easy to do that with this mower.

“My 2008 **Cub Cadet 1050** lawn tractor is my worst buy. I have a roadside ditch that I can’t mow with the Gravely, but the Cub can handle the job. However, mowing around trees and bushes is difficult because the tractor steers hard. It steers so hard my wife won’t even use it.”

**Gunhild Vetter, Bosque Farms, New Mexico:** Gunhild nominates the 10 by 12-ft. greenhouse he bought from **Harbor Freight** as his “worst buy”. “This building was impossible to put together with the instructions provided. I had to get revised instructions and, after many months of fussing with it, I finally got it completed. However, when the spring winds came the panels started popping out and, on one extremely windy day, I watched as the wind lifted and twisted the entire building, leaving me with a twisted aluminum frame and scattered panels. Fortunately, the straps holding it did their job and kept the building from flying away.”

**Arlen Hakeman, Williamsburg, Iowa:** “I never had a problem with my 2002 **Dodge 1500 4-WD** pickup until at about 193,000 miles the radiator started to leak. So that’s when I traded for another Dodge.”

**Don Zeller, Bode, Iowa:** “I traded a 7-ft. **Gnuse 3-pt.** mounted bucket for a new **Gnuse 9-ft., 3-pt.** mounted bucket. It’s equipped with a 16-in. snow guard around the top, which works excellent in deep snow. I use it on a **Deere 4430** tractor.

“I bought a used 800-gal. **Hardi** sprayer with oscillating axles and found that it crowded the rows on the outside. So, I took the axles off and installed a 60-in. spreader axle equipped with 10 by 20 tires. It works better now.”

**William Robison, Ardmore, Tenn.:** “I like **Deere** tractors. Over the years I’ve owned a 1956 **Deere 620**, a 1964 2510, a 1964 3020, and I still own a 1969 **Deere 4020**. The 4020 is a great tractor.”

**Billy Moody, Poplarville, Miss.:** “I bought a new **Mahindra 4025** tractor and before the first year was up I had to replace the dash. Then I had to replace all the fuses and relay switches – 3 times. I also had to replace the battery, hydraulic line, and neutral switch, and now the dash is out again. I’ve also had problems with the lights, horn and alternator – all within two years. I finally parked the tractor in front of my house and put a big lemon sign on it.”

**Emil Hlavka, Gregory, S. Dak.:** “My **Mantis** garden rototiller is small but works good and is easy to operate. I used it hard last spring in my big garden and am well satisfied with how it operates. It’s easy on fuel.”

**Zachary Campbell, Carroll, Iowa:** “I think **SiliKroil** lubricant is a wonderful product (ph 866 311-3374; www.kanolabs.com.). It works good not only to loosen frozen metal parts, but also to supply extra lubrication in very tight spaces. It’s a high solvency penetrating oil that’ll work into one-millionth inch openings.”

**Charles E. Parks, Littlestown, Penn.:** “I like my **Troy-Bilt** weed trimmer plus adjustable garden cultivator/tiller attachment. I use raised beds in my garden, and the tiller attachment is ideal for my raised bed gardening. It has an adjustable tilling width from 5 to 9 in., which is ideal for cultivating rows in my garden, flower beds, and other small areas.”

**Donald D. Ferry, Irwin, Iowa:** “My 1987 **Ford F-250** pickup has been trouble-free. All I’ve done is add new brakes. The original battery wasn’t replaced until last spring, and it still has the original Goodyear tires. It has about 91,000 miles on it. A great pickup.”