



Front-mount sicklebar mower makes it easy to see what you're cutting. "Works great for cutting weeds and grass along pond edges and fences," says the company.

## Loader-Mounted Sickle Mower

The front-mount sicklebar mower from I & J Manufacturing makes it easy to see what you're cutting. It's designed for use with skid steers, front-end loaders on standard tractors, and even mini-tractors. All that's needed is hydraulic power and a quick-attach configuration.

"These mowers are great for using along pond edges and fences, as well as around posts and other obstacles," says Jacob Blank, I & J Manufacturing. "It's ideal for getting under high tensile fence lines."

The mowers have an ESM double-cutting knife system. Claims for the ESM system, which uses no guards, include no vibration, no clogging, and a wide range of mowing applications. It flexes over rocks and other obstacles.

The mower is available with 5 1/2, 7, 8 and 9-ft. cutting bars and ranges in price from \$6,050 to \$6,630. The mower with an 8-ft. cutting bar weighs in at about 670 lbs. It has a hydraulic drive that provides cutting action no matter what angle the bar, from horizontal to vertical.

"A hydraulic cylinder controls the angle



Hydraulic drive provides cutting action no matter what angle the bar is at, from horizontal to vertical.

of the cutting bar," says Blank. "You could shear a tall hedge with it and mow the top or trim the side of a tree or bush. It can mow anywhere the loader arms position it."

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## Walk-Behind Brush Cutter Built To Last

For fence lines and smaller areas that tractors can't reach, the Little Wonder Hydro Brush Cutter may be just what you're looking for.

Because it can cut brush up to 2-in. dia., it's also ideal for cutting fire breaks, clearing brush around barns and buildings, mowing shooting lanes for hunting and clearing trails through wooded lots, says Steve LePera, marketing director for the Pennsylvania company.

Little Wonder has been a leader in debris management since 1997 when the company designed a powerful blower with the air speed of a Category 5 hurricane.

"What's unique about this mower is that the front bar has little plates that can swing in or out. There is also a solid steel bar that won't bend like tubes that can crack and damage the deck," LePera says. The bar knocks brush down and the blade cuts it. The plates keep rocks and debris from hitting the operator, as do the wrap-around hand guards.

"The hydrostatic drive means there are no gears to shift so it smooths the transition and there is no jolting," LePera says. "It also has a speed limiter dial so you can limit the maximum speed it will go."

That is helpful when learning to operate the brush cutter and in rugged terrain. The Little Wonder brush cutter can go as fast as 4.2 mph forward and 1.7 mph reverse and can clear up to an acre of brush in an hour.

The narrow width (30-in.) allows it to be used in tight places. For example, a Georgia tree farmer cuts brush before doing controlled burns to prevent fires from getting away from him.



Walk-behind brush cutter has small plates on front that swing to keep rocks and debris from shooting out.

Maintenance is easy too, with a single pulley system, an access panel on top of the deck and a reversible 26-in. mower blade mounted with a single bolt.

With heavy-duty brush cutter shoes, and 7, 10 and 12-gauge steel, the brush cutter is designed to last for decades.

"The ruggedness of this machine is unmatched," LePera says. Besides farmers and landowner customers, rental companies and landscapers often purchase the Little Wonder Hydro Brush Cutter. It's available through more than 4,500 retailers in the U.S. and Canada, and is sold internationally.

Suggested MSRP for the Little Wonder brush cutter powered by a Honda GXV390 engine is \$3,557.

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## Weeding Robot Keeps Gardens Clean

The Tertill from Franklin Robotics is designed to clean gardens of weeds the way a Roomba robotic vacuum cleans rooms. Franklin Robotics founder Joe Jones developed the Roomba vacuum and started Harvest Automation, developing robotics for the greenhouse and warehouse industries. Equipped with a mini string trimmer, his new product slices away newly emerged weeds before they can become a problem.

"We went with a trimmer to keep the Tertill small and safe," says Rory MacKean, CEO, Franklin Robotics. "The sensor on the front of the Tertill detects a weed and turns on the trimmer. It gets up to speed fast."

The touch sensitive Tertill shies away from plants taller than itself as it works its way around the garden. The wheeled unit is still in the prototype stage. The current design weighs less than 2 lbs. Cross ridges on the wheels pull it through the garden. An onboard battery is recharged by a solar panel on the Tertill's roof.

"It is designed to be outside all the time, probably running an hour and a half out of each day and powering up the rest of the time," says MacKean. "It should cover all of a 150 to 200-sq. ft. area every couple days. It doesn't move fast, but it doesn't have to."

The controller uses proprietary algorithms to ensure the Tertill gets to the weeds. MacKean explains that it has a built-in penalty if it drives into larger plants several times. This helps it maintain a random pattern over the garden.

The first working prototype was tested in gardens in 2016. MacKean plans to have several units out for consumer testing in 2017. The company is planning a crowd-funding campaign prior to commercial production for the 2018 gardening season. Initial sales will be online, direct from the company.



Equipped with a mini string trimmer, "Tertill" robot takes out newly emerged weeds in gardens. A sensor on front detects weed and activates trimmer, which is out of sight under body of robot.

"We'll see where it goes from there with catalog or garden center sales," says MacKean.

If well received, the next step will be a Tertill for commercial gardeners and perhaps eventually for full-scale farming. The company has indicated the weeder is just a first step, with soil and plant health sensing down the road.

"We learned a lot developing the Tertill, which will help us scale up to more commercial applications," says MacKean. "We are looking at it first as a weeder and then will evaluate other aspects of what it could sense that you can't sense conveniently in any other way."

Prices for the Tertill are still being worked out. MacKean expects it to sell for between \$250 and \$300. You can see a video of it in action at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

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Slot cut into one end of a short 2 by 10 board hooks over a 2 by 6, forming a corner that keeps small items from sliding sideways.

## "Blocking Board" Keeps Pickup Bed Organized

Kenny Ranta of Excelsior Springs, Mo., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a simple idea he uses to keep his pickup bed neat and organized.

"I drive a 2002 Ford pickup that has a plastic liner in the bed with built-in side pockets," says Ranta. "The pockets were designed for use with a 2 by 6 board to keep big objects from moving forward and backward. However, there's nothing to keep small items like 5-gal. buckets and gas cans from sliding sideways."

"So one night this idea came to me. I cut a slot into one end of a short 2 by 10 so I can hook it over the 2 by 6 to form a corner where small items are stored. As the 2 by 10 is slid against the items it gets 'pinched' and can't move. I also cut a round hole in the opposite end of the board that makes it easy to grip the board with gloves."

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