

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

local Nutrien retailer had a 50-gal. Munchhof tower sprayer on hand at the end of the 2019 season. The price was marked down from the \$8,900 list price. That is quite a bit cheaper than other systems, like an air blast sprayer. Most air blast sprayers are 200 to 300 gal. compared to the largest Munchhof, which is 160 gal.



"Coverage is better than with an air blast sprayer that applies spray to the lower leaves, but requires a handgun to reach the upper branches. The Munchhof creates a smooth, laminar column of air the length of the tower. Droplets are formed to the correct size and pattern before entering the air stream. The Munchhof can be adjusted to the height of the trees and turns the leaves to the side to spray both sides.

"Air blast sprayers require a larger tractor and are usually on trailers. The Munchhof mounts to my 3-pt. hitch for a tight turning radius. It also adds weight to my rear wheels for better traction.

"I can spray to one or both sides. The airflow from the tower picks up the spray as it is released from jets the height of the tower. The airflow is at a 12-degree upward angle.

"The diaphragm pump is pressure adjustable at any rpm. I can reduce rpm's and fan speed to prevent blowing through a light canopy."



**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** "When I received a news release on Makita's new XLT XR16 cordless brush cutter, I was intrigued. I'm a big fan of how the company uses the same batteries for all of its 270 plus cordless tools.

"When the company sent me the Cordless Brush Cutter to use, it included a 9-in., star blade with 4 teeth and the brush cutter harness. However, both the box and the manual referred to the tool as a Cordless Grass Trimmer. Even more confusing was the warning label on the blade: Use this blade for grass cutting only.

"I contacted the company to ask about the warning labels. When no answers came, I went ahead and attacked tall grasses, heavy weeds and light brush with the 'for grass cutting only' blade.

"As a light brush cutter, the XR16 easily walked through heavy weeds and grasses and chopped its way through woody stems. It handled everything my old Stihl trimmer with a circle saw blade could.

"It chewed into and through clusters of

woody honeysuckle up to 1 in. in diameter. Old, woody gooseberry and raspberry canes were no challenge. Likewise, the 4-tooth blade had no real problem with box elder stems and even clipped off volunteer black walnut stems that were about an inch in diameter.

"It didn't wrap up weeds or grasses so I didn't have to use the nifty reverse feature, but it was nice to know it was there. I did very much appreciate the 3 speeds offered and the power produced.

"Occasionally the motor would stop on a larger stem, but it restarted immediately with no noticeable problem.

"According to Makita, the 36-volt brushless motor, powered by two 18-volt batteries, produces power equal to Makita's 30cc gas motors with all the benefits of cordless.

"Control is an important feature of the grass trimmer/brush cutter. I like the handlebars and quick-release harness. They give arm, shoulder and back muscles a real break and make the cutting action easy to control. Casting the cutting head back and forth in wide swathes is smooth and easy with those features."

**John Meyer, Stewartville, Minn.:** "If you want to roll cover crops, I strongly recommend going with a real cover crop roller like an I&J. I used an Unverferth 75 Rolling Leveler, which I've since sold, but I wouldn't recommend it. It's a decently built machine, but just not what's best by design for cover crop termination by rolling.

"It is similar to the I&J, with blades that are close in design and a 16-in. reel that again is close. Weight per foot is about 15 percent less, but more weight could be added.

"However, it doesn't have enough spiral to avoid bouncing as you roll across the field. Also, it has a 12-ft. base with 3-ft. folding wings, but when it is down, it's in a fixed position with no flex across all 18 ft. Another problem is no overlap of one reel to the next, so the gap leaves a strip at the bearings with no chance of being rolled/crimped.

"The biggest problem with making do with an individual roller that is overly wide is getting full contact of the blades across the face of the roller. That is especially true if you don't have a very flat surface field.

"If the blade can't contact the surface of the ground consistently, you'll end up with gaps under the blade and an inconsistent crimp of the cover crop. There are some roller manufacturers now that are shortening the rolls and allowing them to oscillate independently to follow the ground contours, and I expect that they will probably do a better, more consistent job of crimping."



**Bernard Paumier, Baltimore, Ohio:** He's impressed with his Rollator 2-in-1 transport chair. "I'm 90 years old and one day I was carrying a tray of food when I slipped and fell, and the food splattered all over our kitchen floor. Thankfully my son brought me this chair to carry things in my house. It rides on 4 swivel wheels and can handle up to 300 lbs., so I can use it to carry wood to our wood-burning stove.



"It lets us cut logs up to 20 ft. long and 36 in. wide into anything we want," says Jack Agnew about his TimberKing 2000 sawmill.

## "Best Buy" TimberKing Sawmill

"We like our TimberKing sawmill, which we bought new about 10 years ago," says Jack Agnew, Gum Spring, Va. "We've put up more than 12,000 square feet of barns and greenhouses on our farms, yet we haven't spent a penny on lumber for these buildings other than our time and labor and gas to operate the sawmill. It has saved us about \$100,000 on lumber at today's prices.

"We bought the sawmill after purchasing 140 acres of wooded land that provides us with unlimited timber. It lets us cut logs up to 20 ft. long and 36 in. wide into anything we want.

"We also use it to custom cut wood for others in our area. Sometimes people will haul in tractor trailers full of logs for us to cut. We keep it in a 6,000 sq. ft. shed that doubles as a work shop, which we built using the sawmill."

He says their model 2000 TimberKing is the smallest commercial grade model the company offers, but is plenty big for their needs. The cutting head is supported by 4



He keeps the sawmill in a 6,000 sq. ft. shed that doubles as a work shop

posts and rides on 2 tracks, which allows it to cut very precisely.

He says anyone in the market should look at the company's new, fully-hydraulic sawmills. "The new mills come with a pair of hydraulic log loading arms and lots of other features including hydraulic blade feed, hydraulic blade up/down, and a hydraulic bi-directional chain log turner that lets you spin the log around without having to grab it with a cant hook," says Agnew.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Agnew, 4605 Fox Chase Run, Gum Spring, Va. 23065 (ph 804 556-3377).

"Our Kubota tractor and Kawasaki Mule are best buys."

**Merrill Frus, Creston, Iowa:** "I'm well pleased with my 2000 Case IH 135 front wheel assist tractor. Handles well and is easy to drive while requiring only minor repairs.

## "This mower only has 51 hrs. on it, but the main belt has already been replaced 3 times."

"My 2020 Country Clipper Challenger zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 52-in. deck is poorly designed and built cheap. It lacks power in tall or wet grass, and the engine's air intake constantly fills with grass. Also, the joystick doesn't work properly. This mower has only 51 hrs. on it, but the main belt has already been replaced 3 times. I'm going back to Walker mowers."

**Rex Peterson, Centerville, Iowa:** "When I sold my Allis Chalmers 190D tractor last summer it still had the Interstate batteries I bought for it in 2000. During all those years the tractor never failed to start. Now I buy only Interstate batteries."

**Jerry Couet, Dayton, Minn.:** Jerry likes his Kubota B3200 32 hp. diesel loader tractor. "It always starts right up, is fuel efficient, runs quiet, and has a 3-speed differential. However, my brother-in-laws

say it's the wrong color.

"My Maytag clothes washing machine doesn't get my clothes clean. They don't even get wet."

**Rodney Juntunen, Esko, Minn.:** "I'm 79 years old and losing power, but my 1952 Ferguson T0-30 tractor isn't.

"My 2005 Chrysler minivan still looks and runs like new."

**Amos L. Brubaker, Ina, Ill.:** "It rides and drives better than any pickup I've ever owned," says Amos about his 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 crewcab equipped with a 5.7-liter, V-8 engine. "The interior is roomy and comfortable, and the V-8 engine is fuel efficient.

"My Deere 6170R tractor, which I bought used, handles great and has good hydraulics."

**Duane O. Hansen, Sheridan, Mich.:** "My 2018 Giant bicycle rides really smooth (www.giant-bicycles.com). I'm 86 years old, but weather permitting I still ride this bike 7 to 10 miles a day. In 2019 I rode it 1,320 miles, and last year 1,100 miles. I enjoy riding down country roads, watching huge tractors tilling and harvesting in the fields. In general, I just like being outdoors. It's great exercise and is virus-free because I'm not inside with other people."

**Joshua Bennetch, Beathel, Penn.:** "I like not having to pull a rope to start my 2019 Milwaukee cordless string trimmer.

"The motor on my 2016 Ryobi power drill overheated and burned out. The problem is there's no heat sensor on it."

**Michael L. Morrison, Winterset, Iowa:** "My 1967 Deere 4020 equipped with a Powershift transmission is still dependable."