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## Best & Worst Home & Yard Products

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C1 Toro



C2 Black & Decker



C6 Black & Decker

## Overview

Top mowers cut evenly, bag efficiently, and leave few clippings when mulching and side-discharging.

### ✓ CR Best Buy

All offer top value and are recommended.

### ✓ Recommended

These high-scoring models stand out from the crowd for the reasons below. **Best self-propelled for most; top performance:**

**A2 Toro** \$630

**A4 Toro** \$420 **CR Best Buy**

**A8 Toro** \$370 **CR Best Buy**

**A2** offers premium performance and a blade-brake clutch for less than the top Honda. **A4** and **A8** perform almost as well for even less. Paying more for **A4** buys a blade-brake clutch.

### Lower-priced self-propelled, with some trade-offs:

**A9 Craftsman** \$360

**A11 Toro** \$300 **CR Best Buy**

**A12 Craftsman** \$300

**A15 Yard-Man** \$280

**A18 Brute** \$350

**A24 Lawn-Boy** \$270

**A26 Craftsman** \$330

**A9**, **A11**, and **A26** are front-drive, which is fine for flatter lawns, but rear-drive is better for uphill traction. **A12** mows well in all three modes. **A15** has a smaller, 19-inch cut, while **A18** includes electric starting for relatively little money. Consider **A24** if you often side-discharge clippings.

### Push models for smaller lawns:

**B1 Lawn-Boy** \$240

**B2 Cub Cadet** \$240 **CR Best Buy**

**B4 Husqvarna** \$200 **CR Best Buy**

**C1 Toro** \$420

**C2 Black & Decker** \$420

**C4 Black & Decker** \$260

**C6 Black & Decker** \$370

Among gas mowers, **B1** and **B2** perform best overall. **B4** has a premium engine and ball-bearing wheels, and offers the most value for the money. Among cordless electrics, choose **C1** for its even cutting, **C2** for its versatility, **C6** for its low price. **C4** costs even less but has a power cord.

Recommendation	Rank	Brand & model	Price	Specs	Overall score	Test results										
						Cut (in.)	Engine size (cc/volts/amps)	Evenness	Mulching	Bagging	Side discharge	Handling	Ease of use			
						0	P	I	F	I	G	V	G	I	E	100

### B GAS-POWERED PUSH Fine for smaller, flatter lawns and for trimming.

✓	1	Lawn-Boy 10640 (1)	\$240	20	190cc	67	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
✓	2	Cub Cadet 11A-18MC (1) 11A-18M9, Yard-Man 11A-18M9	240	19	173	66	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	3	Craftsman 38909 38908	220	21	190	66	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
✓	4	Husqvarna 6021P	200	21	149	65	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	5	Craftsman 38903	200	21	190	65	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	6	Troy-Bilt TB110 11A-A26M TB130 11A-B29Q	200	21	190	64	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	7	Craftsman 38911	240	21	190	64	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	8	Bolens 11A-414A 11A-414S	180	21	158	64	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	9	Yard Machines 11A-414E	180	21	158	63	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

### C ELECTRIC For small lawns; corded models are noted. All are push except where footnoted.

✓	1	Toro 20360	420	20	36V	70	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
✓	2	Black & Decker CM1936 (1)	420	19	36V	66	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	3	Black & Decker CMM1200 (1)	420	19	24V	64	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
✓	4	Black & Decker MM875 (1) (2)	260	19	12A	63	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	5	Craftsman 37048	400	19	48V	62	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
✓	6	Black & Decker CM1836 (3)	370	18	36V	61	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	7	Black & Decker MM1800 (1) (2)	240	18	12A	58	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	8	Ryobi RY14110 (3)	400	20	48V	57	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	9	Neuton CE6.4	470	19	36V	49	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	10	Worx WG780	400	19	24V	48	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	11	Earthwise 60120	320	20	24V	42	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	12	Earthwise 50120 (2)	160	20	12A	40	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

(1) Discontinued, but similar model is available; price is for similar model. (2) Price includes optional discharge chute. (3) Uses power cord. (4) Self-propelled electric.

## Guide to the Ratings

**Overall score** is mostly cutting performance, handling, and ease of use. Displayed scores rounded; models listed in order of precise overall score.

**Evenness** shows average cutting performance for available modes. **Mulching** is how well clippings were cut and distributed onto lawn. **Bagging** is effective capacity with full bag(s) or clogged chute. **Side discharge** is how evenly clippings were dispersed onto lawn. **Handling** for walk-behind mowers includes ease of using drive controls, pushing, pulling, U-turns, and other

maneuvers; for riding mowers, ease of drive engagement, braking, steering, turn radius, and resistance to front-wheel lift. **Ease of use** for walk-behind mowers is ease of starting, using blade-stopping controls, changing speeds, and adjusting cut height; for riding mowers, leg room, seat and steering-wheel/lever comfort, ease of blade/brake engagement, cut-height adjustment, bag removal, and mode changes. **Price** is approximate retail for mowers and attachments; attachment prices for riding mowers are from manufacturers.