



Electric Lawn Equipment is Up to the Task

By: Lee Kaufman, Commissioner

Green Residents of Westchester (GROW)
Ecological Commission

Gas-powered lawn care equipment is commonly used but comes with an array of issues such as air and noise pollution. Now imagine instead that on a warm Sunday afternoon, you are napping in your hammock when your neighbor decides to mow & trim their lawn, with their Electric Lawn Equipment. As you doze you notice a soft whirring hum that blends tunefully with birdsong & the buzzing of insects. You notice the pleasant smell of fresh mowed grass, sweet and earthy with a slight hint of peat, as your dreams drift along with the cool breeze.



Time to switch to a new generation of clean, quiet electric lawn equipment.

Electric lawn equipment is easy to find at major hardware retailers. Retailers offer dozens of options for electric mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, and other types of equipment. I recommend that you choose one brand, so that batteries will be interchangeable with different devices, including drills, circular saws, flashlights, etc.

Electric lawn equipment is comparable in quality and performance to gasoline-powered equipment, with typical equipment performing better on some metrics and worse on others in product testing. Certainly, maintenance is considerably less with electric equipment.

Electric lawn equipment is far quieter than gasoline powered versions and produces less vibration making it healthier and safer to use. Pushing around a loud and smelly mower turns a lovely day into an ecological disaster.



My 20 plus year-old Black & Decker Electric Mower still runs like a champ. Also yes, the yellow slide is attached to the deck.

Personally, my family has been using an electric mower for over 20 years. We have replaced the battery once. The device has NO rust, with the only issue being a wheel that falls off, because of bad design. As you can see above it is rather modern in appearance. It is quiet and has ZERO emissions. We keep our grass somewhat long and thick where it is not heavily shaded, which makes it more durable & healthier. Mulching also helps to keep the lawn strong & saves a great deal of time. Our String Trimmer or “Weed Wacker,” is part of a family of tools that includes a hedge trimmer, drill, circular saw & a second mower that weighs about ¼ the weight of the Black & Decker. Many other power tools are available & all use the same batteries. This simplifies my life.

I like to read the headlines and found the following headlines in a document entitled “Lawn Care Goes Electric” published by: Environment America Research & Policy Center

- **“Gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment is noisy and dirty.”**

- **“Pollution from gasoline-powered lawn equipment threatens our health and the climate.”**
- **“Noise and vibration from gasoline-powered lawn equipment are irritating and unhealthy.”**
- **“Lawn and garden equipment produces as much pollution as tens of millions of cars.”**
- **“Electric lawn equipment is effective and affordable”**

Our home gardens & yards are places that we can develop far beyond having a nice lawn. The GROW committee encourages homeowners to consider removing areas of grass & replacing them with wildflowers or vegetable gardens, as well as fruit trees & berry plants. This not only makes your lawn less work & more interesting, but helps with water infiltration, as well as producing food that is fresh and healthful.

Electric lawn equipment is up to the task & good for our environment, our health, and our neighbors. I encourage you to consider your choices and how these can effect change for the better.

Easy tips to reduce Air Pollution:

- **Take short trips on foot or by bicycle.**
- **Carpool whenever possible, this makes the commute more fun, and functional.**
- **Use Public Transit. Do you know we can get to either airport using the #330 Mannheim Road PACE bus from Westchester?**
- **Use less power, turn off the lights, setback thermostats both winter & summer.**
- **Think about your consumption habits...**

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss Electric Lawn Care Equipment or any of the topics in this or any other of my articles via email: LKaufman@westchester-il.gov.

