

LM REPORTS

YOUR GUIDE TO PRODUCT RESEARCH

BEFORE YOU BUY

› Manufacturers are debuting designs that offer power and fuel efficiency. Electric and battery-powered models are in the mix, too. Keep in mind the emissions level of the product you're eyeing because the market in which you work may be considering (if it hasn't already) ways to keep clean air.

› Because many tasks undertaken with handheld equipment last for a long time, be kind to your techs and look for features such as adjustable handles and cushioned grips. The upside to what might be a higher initial investment will be more appreciative employees who'll likely take better care of the equipment and do a more thorough job.

› Is the equipment easy to maintain and store? Does it offer shields over parts that are potentially hazardous when in use? Is it easy to power off in an emergency?

› Because handhelds are dragged out at almost every account, they'll become in need of repair. What kind of warranty is offered from the manufacturer? How easy is it to make minor fixes back in the shop? Are parts replaceable? Are they easy to order?

HANDHELD EQUIPMENT

Cub Cadet ↑

Powered by a 2.4-hp heavy-duty Emak engine, Cub Cadet Commercial's CS 3916 chain saw is built tough to guarantee the right cut each time. Complete with a 16-in. commercial-grade bar, the CS 3916 is constructed for extended use, while an antivibration handle reduces user fatigue, and an inertia chain brake allows for increased operator safety and minimal kickback. Its no-tool access to air filter and spark plug allows for easy maintenance, while its variable automatic oiler eliminates oil consumption while in idle. The CS 3916 comes with a 90-day, limited commercial warranty and a 2-year, limited residential warranty. www.CubCadetCommercial.com or 877/835-7841



Echo ↓

Based on a handheld design, Echo's BRD-280 allows routine flowerbed and garden edge maintenance without the bulk of wheeled machines or the time-consuming, hard work associated with the use of shovels. It's also significantly less expensive and easier to use than a wheeled unit. Powered by a 28.1 cc Power Boost Vortex engine, the carbide-tipped, six-fingered blade cuts a crisp, beveled groove, leaving a professional manicured look. A high-impact, oversized nylon shield keeps debris contained within the landscaper bed, eliminating cleanup. www.echo-usa.com or 847/540-8400



Efcopower ↓

The low-emissions Efcopower MultiMate is a multi-attachment piece of equipment that quickly converts to five different tools with a patented Rev&Go attachment system: Simply insert an attachment and twist to lock in place, then press the button to release when you're finished. The attachments are available to complete a variety of jobs: straight shaft trimmer, curved shaft trimmer, blower, pruner and hedge trimmer. All attachments feature Efcopower's professional performance and feature adjustable handles, as well as a "Five Year No Fear" warranty. www.efcopower.com or 800/800-4420





Husqvarna →

The 335FR, 343FR and 235FR brushcutters feature X-TORQ engine technology, which reduces exhaust emissions by as much as 60% and reduces fuel consumption by as much as 20%. Designed with long working shifts in mind, the new ergonomically designed brushcutters offer superior durability. Equipped with a trimmer head, grass and saw blade, the brushcutters also feature LowVib antivibration dampeners that absorb vibration for maximum comfort and control. A transparent fuel tank offers simple fuel level checks, while a magnetic locking pin holder facilitates easy switch of cutting equipment. www.husqvarna.com or 800/633-3522

Little Wonder ↓

Schiller Grounds Care offers the Little Wonder brand double edge gas hedge trimmer has been redesigned to be 10% lighter and 20% faster than older models. With a blade speed of 4,100 cuts per minute, double reciprocating blades and a dual cutting motion, the trimmer performs faster than older models. A front loop handle allows the user to operate the trimmer from many different positions. The lowered profile makes it easy to reach over the engine. The trimmer is available in 19-in., 24-in. and 30-in. models to suit the needs of every landscaping job. www.littlewonder.com/ or 877/596-6337



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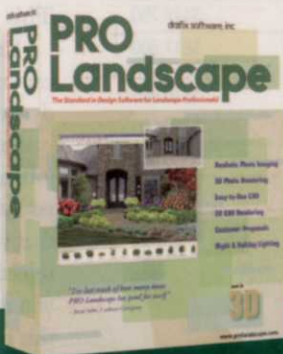
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