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No Gas, No Cord, No Problem: Black & Decker Makes the Cut

IF THIS WERE A PERFECT WORLD, there would not be 30 million acres of turf growing in the United States today. Turf must be managed, which in many cases requires the application of water, fertilizer and pesticides. There is also the task of mowing, which usually must occur weekly throughout the growing season to maintain the average home lawn.

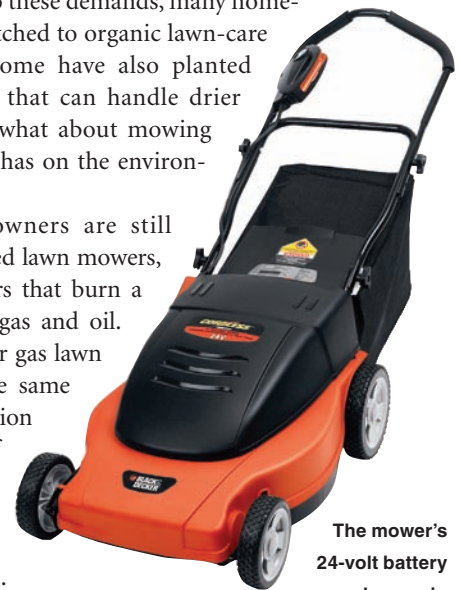
In response to these demands, many homeowners have switched to organic lawn-care methods, and some have also planted species of grass that can handle drier conditions. But what about mowing and the effect it has on the environment?

Most homeowners are still using gas-powered lawn mowers, or worse, mowers that burn a combination of gas and oil. A 3.5-horsepower gas lawn mower emits the same amount of pollution in one hour of use that a gas-powered vehicle produces in 340 miles of driving.

The bottom line is switching to an electric mower makes environmental sense.

Putting that idea into practice, Black & Decker has introduced a cordless electric mulching mower for lawns of up to one-third of an acre. The Model CMM1200, which has a 19-inch cutting path and a 24-volt battery that recharges overnight, produces half the noise of a gas mower, has no starter cord to pull, and uses no oil or gas — which means no spillage of either in the garage. To mow the average lawn once a week during the growing season, the mower requires less than \$10 of electricity. And you don't have to worry about disposing of the battery at the end of its life span — it can be returned to a Black & Decker service center for recycling.

This mower, which sells for \$399, is the wave of the future. If I had a lawn, I'd buy one! For a list of retailers or to purchase online, go to www.blackanddecker.com. — R.C.C.



The mower's 24-volt battery recharges in 16 hours.