



CHOOSING A RIDING LAWN MOWER



There Used To Be One Riding Mower Option: A LAWN TRACTOR

Today, There's A Better Way: **ZERO-TURN MOWERS**

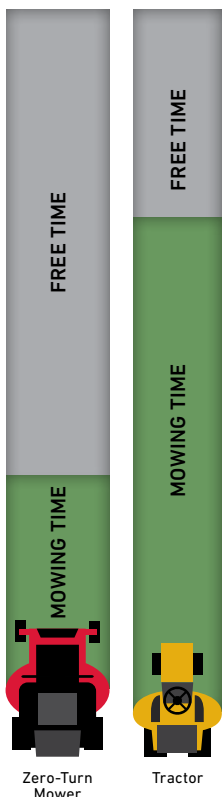
Whether you're replacing an existing riding mower or looking for your first, everybody has their own ideas on mowing the grass. For some, it's a nice getaway from the everyday.

SPEND **45% LESS TIME** MOWING*

For others, it's just a chore. Most fall somewhere in between: A job to be done, let's make the most of it.

But what if you could get the job done almost twice as fast - **UP TO 45 PERCENT FASTER?** And have a little fun doing it? Doesn't sound possible? It is.

SUMMER



Why Opt for a Zero-Turn Riding Mower Instead of a Lawn Tractor?

- Zero-turn mowers offer the ability to cut tight contours, meaning less time on foot with a hand trimmer or push mower.
- They have a visibility advantage over tractors, as there is nothing in front to obstruct your view.
- Zero-turn mowers offer faster cutting speeds than a lawn tractor and can turn on a dime. There's no need to put the mower in reverse -- and back into forward gear -- to cut the grass missed at the end of each mowing path.
- While you may think only landscape contractor pros use zero-turn mowers to professionally cut lawns, there are models in line with homeowner budgets.

Recently, Toro® has introduced steering wheel zero turn mowers, where the operator uses a steering wheel and foot pedals to control the speed and direction. It's a great option if you're not comfortable with levers, giving a more intuitive feel to steering.



TRADITIONAL TRACTOR



ZERO-TURN MOWER

EASY OPERATION

To control ground speed and direction, most zero turn mowers have highly responsive lever controls instead of foot pedals and a steering wheel. Push more on the right and you turn left. Pull back on the left at the same time, and you turn 360 degrees in a counterclockwise direction. Close cutting is on the left where the discharge chute is not in the way.



REVERSE



TURN RIGHT



STOP



TURN LEFT



FORWARD

* Time savings are from 2008-2012 survey results for Toro residential zero-turn mowers, as reported by owners.



EXPERT'S GUIDE TO BUYING A ZERO-TURN MOWER

DURABILITY

Overall sturdiness of the frame and deck construction are key elements of durability. Comparing specs on steel frame design and dimension, the gauge of the steel (the lower the gauge, the thicker the material) and protection surrounding the rear-mounted engine can give you a good idea of overall durability.

DECK CONSTRUCTION

Is the deck stamped? Commercial zero-turn mowers typically have decks made of several pieces of continuously welded heavy-gauge steel, while residential mowers have decks of lighter-gauge steel stamped in a press. For homeowners, stamped decks will be more than adequate, but for properties with rough terrain they may be less durable than the welded decks found on most professional mowers. Welded decks appear on commercial-grade products and are constructed to stand up to more rugged daily use. Also look to see if the mower has small wheels designed to raise the deck over uneven terrain to protect the lawn from getting cut too short, or scalped. How many gauge wheels does the deck have, and are they adjustable to accommodate different cutting heights?

ENGINE DESIGN

There are a variety of engine brands found on zero turn mowers. Most are adequate and all have more than enough power. Ease of service is important. For a good durable engine, look for brands that are found on commercial zero turn mowers or a mower manufacturer's own brand, since they can customize the engine for their specific machines for optimal performance and are not using a one-size-fits-all engine off the shelf from one of the engine manufacturers.

EASY-TO-ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT

Adjusting the cutting height on the mower should be easy and fast. Look for a foot assist, if you want the extra leverage, in addition to a hand lever, to quickly raise the deck for short periods, such as when you're mowing over an exposed tree root. Avoid mowers that require you to get off and manually adjust the deck height, since that will reduce your productivity.

WIDER TIRES

Look for a mower with wider tires, which distribute the machine's weight over a large area and are easier on the grass. They also provide improved traction.

COMFORT

Granted, you'll spend less time riding your zero-turn mower than you would a lawn tractor, but comfort is still key. Is the seat comfortable to sit on? You will be leaning back against the seat instead of leaning over a steering wheel, so back support is an important consideration. Is the control panel easy to see and reach from the seat? When all the controls are on the same side, it makes operation easier. Does the mower manufacturer make and sell the accessories you want? Mowers can be personalized to fit your needs whether it is bagging, mulching, or another need.

USER FRIENDLY

Are you a novice or an expert operator? Some zero turn mowers allow you to adjust your mowing speed to match your level of comfort and control. Choosing the "high mode" gives you maximum speed for mowing flat, open spaces in your yard. The "low mode" allows for enhanced maneuverability when cutting around trees, landscaping, or other tight spaces – reducing the amount of time you'll spend with a hand trimmer when done mowing. The low-speed option also provides more graduated speed changes with your control arms.

PRICE

Zero-turn mowers range in price from just over \$2,000 to a little more than \$6,000 for residential versions, and more for commercial ones. While it's possible to get a quality zero-turn at the lower end of the price range, keep in mind riding mowers at higher range of the spectrum usually come equipped with more features and added durability.

SAVE TIME ON YARD CHORES.

Residential and commercial zero turn mowers are grass cutting machines, but they are also quite versatile. With a standard hitch, you can add a number of accessories such as bagging systems, dethatchers, sprayers, aerators and utility carts, just to name a few. Take a look at this video to see more options:

www.toro.com/z-versatility-video

TIMECUTTER® PULL-BEHIND ATTACHMENTS

10 CU FT CART • AERATOR DETHATCHER • SWEEPER • SPRAYER
Attach with standard TimeCutter® hitch system



TIMECUTTER® MODULAR ATTACHMENT SYSTEM

BAGGER • CARGO CARRIER • SPREADER • SPRAYER
Share common mounting system*



MOUNTING SYSTEM



COUNTERWEIGHT
mounts to front panel

*Sold separately. Counterweight required for zero turn mowers. Not needed for zero turn tractors.