

What you should consider when buying a lawn mower



When looking to purchase a new lawn mower it is not necessarily as easy as just picking the one that looks good, there are many things to consider to ensure that the lawn mower fits your needs and your garden.

Size of the garden

The most important consideration when purchasing a lawn mower is the size of your lawn, this will determine the type of lawn mower that you should be looking at. If you have a lawn mower that is too large for the size of your lawn then you will have problems when manoeuvring it in tight corners, a small lawn mower on a large lawn will take much longer to cut all the grass and you may have to empty it more often.

Type of Lawn Mower

- **Cylinder Mowers**
 - Work best on short fine lawns, the blades work like scissors and leave a very good finish on a flat lawn.
 - Designed to be used regularly to keep short cut grass looking neat.
 - Do not collect grass cuttings well, will leave the cuttings on the grass to mulch.
- **Hover Mowers**
 - Good on uneven surfaces and irregular shaped gardens.
 - Work well on smaller gardens and sometimes medium sized gardens too.
 - You can get ones that either collect the grass or redistribute the clippings for raking or mulch.
- **Rotary Mowers**
 - Have a blade that rotates underneath and often have a roller at the back.
 - Can leave the stripe effect as seen on football pitches if used on a flat lawn.
 - Can go to the limits of the lawn and cut the edges properly.

Size of the Lawn Mower

When choosing the correct size lawn mower it is useful to know that the mower size is measured by the blade width. The larger the blade the larger the mower.

- For a small lawn under 50sqm you would need a 30-34cm cutting width
- For a medium lawn under 150sqm you would need a 35-40cm cutting width
- For a large lawn over 150sqm you would need over 40cm cutting width

How is it powered?

- **Electric Mower – Corded**
 - Quiet
 - Will generally require an extension lead to ensure can reach certain distances
 - Can generally tackle long and damp grass effectively
- **Electric Mower – Cordless**
 - No restraints on distance as no cord following you around
 - Can be more expensive than corded mowers
 - Will have power limitations as battery will need to be recharged
- **Petrol Mower**
 - Great for mowing a large area and tackling rough grass
 - Have no power limitations.
 - Can be heavy and difficult to manoeuvre
 - Can require more maintenance
- **Manual Mower**
 - No power source or fuel required
 - Good for a small area
 - Can be hard work as the power is coming from the person pushing it

How does it collect the cuttings?

When mowing the lawn there are different options as to how the grass is distributed once cut. If you do not want the work of raking after cutting then there are lawn mowers that mulch the grass once cut; chops the grass then redistributes onto the lawn where it decomposes and feeds the soil, or there is the option for a grass box or cutting bag that will collect the cuttings and they can then be disposed of in a compost heap. The latter may cause you more work as depending on the size of the lawn being mowed may mean more trips to the compost heap.

Lawn Mower cutting height

This is essentially the height above the ground that the lawn mower will cut the grass. A lawn mower with a single height adjuster is the easiest option, with cheaper lawn mowers the wheels and blade will need to be manually adjusted to change the height. A lawn mower with a wider cutting range is more useful if there will be multiple lawns mown with the same lawn mower, or if the grass is different heights at different times of the year.