

➔ Tried & tested / Battery trimmers

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In need of a decent trim?

Geoff Hodge tests battery-operated trimmers that are a cut above the rest to find his pick of the bunch

GRASS trimmers give lawns a neat finish, cutting down overlong grass, can be used to reach into places your mower can't reach, cut awkward areas around hedges, fences and trees, and tough overgrown border foliage. They're also handy for cutting steep grassy banks.

Most can also be converted to a lawn edger, giving your newly mowed garden lawn that finished look, by tidying up the edges.

Electric trimmers are cleaner, lightweight and easier to handle than petrol-driven ones. But they have the drawback of an electric cable and need a nearby power supply.

Rechargeable battery-powered trimmers are more mobile and can be used anywhere, although they are generally less powerful - but I've never known this to be a problem. And obviously, the greater the battery voltage, the more power the trimmer has. They generally have

a running time of around 25-40 minutes, but this depends on the load put on the motor and the length and thickness of the grass being cut. The battery takes three to five hours to charge.

Battery technology really has come quite a long way in recent years. Long-lasting lithium-ion batteries have several advantages - no self discharge, so the battery doesn't run flat when not in use, ensuring maximum performance for the length of the run time - among others.

The test

I tested the trimmers on grass and other plants at home. It had recently rained, so the plants were wet and all the trimmers dealt with the wet conditions perfectly.

This was a short-term test - I couldn't run it over several months and so the results may vary over time.

All the models on test are line trimmers, except Bosch and Gtech, which both use plastic blades and come supplied with 20 blades; Gtech also offers free blades for life for its trimmer.

Some models have a variable position tilting head, which is handy for trimming those hard to reach places, such as under shrubs and garden furniture.

Most of the models are telescopic, so you can adjust the length to enable you to trim or edge standing upright. I'm 1.73m (5ft 9in) tall, and I found that the best/most comfortable length for me was around 110-115cm (43 3/4-45 1/2 in), depending on the actual model, such as the position of the handle.

➔ Bosch ART23LI Cordless Grass Trimmer

- **Battery type** 14.4 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 80-114 cm (31 1/2-45in)
- **Weight** 2kg
- **Running time** Cuts up to 800m (2,667ft) of lawn edge
- **Handle grip** Angle adjustable
- **Comfort:** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Adjustable angle; 23cm (9in) cutting width
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes
- **Trimming/Edging** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** Yes
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 2 years
- **Price guide** £94.99

➔ CEL Garden POWERline Trimmer

The POWERline Trimmer is part of the POWERline range and is available without battery and charger, if you already own a POWERhandle.

- **Battery type** 18 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 89cm-116cm (35-45 1/2 in)
- **Weight** 2.1kg
- **Running time** 40 minutes
- **Handle grip** Three-position, angle adjustable
- **Comfort** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Adjustable angle; 25cm (10in) cutting width; auto line feed
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes; separate edging guide wheels
- **Trimming/Edging** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** Yes
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 1 year
- **Price guide** £84.90 with battery

➔ Flymo Contour Cordless XT

- **Battery type** 18 Volt, nickel-metal hydrid
- **Length** 101cm (39 3/4 in)
- **Weight** 2.3kg
- **Running time** 25 minutes
- **Handle grip** Fixed position
- **Comfort** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Fixed angle; 25cm (10in) cutting width; auto line feed
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes; attached wheel guide
- **Trimming/Edging** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** Yes
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 1 year
- **Price guide** £59.99

➔ Gtech ST05 Li-Ion Cordless Grass Trimmer

- **Battery type** 14.4 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 100cm-132cm (39 1/2-52in)
- **Weight** 1.5kg
- **Running time** 30 minutes
- **Handle grip** Position and angle adjustable
- **Comfort** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Adjustable angle; 23cm (9in) cutting width
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes
- **Trimming/Edging** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** No
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 1 year
- **Price guide** £69.95



BUY THE TRIMMER ONLY IF YOU OWN A POWERLINE HANDLE

COMES WITH 20 BLADES AND FREE BLADES FOR LIFE

➔ ikra-Mogatec RT2118LI Battery Grass Trimmer

Only one on/off switch, so take care not to start it accidentally.

- **Battery type** 18 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 102cm-115cm (40-45 1/2 in)
- **Weight** 2.3kg
- **Running time** 25 minutes
- **Handle grip** Angle adjustable
- **Comfort:** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Adjustable angle; 22cm (8 1/2 in) cutting width; tap 'n' go line feed
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes
- **Trimming/Edging** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** Yes
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 2 years
- **Price guide** £99.99

➔ Tonino Lamborghini ART6018LI Cordless Grass Trimmer

Only one on/off switch, so take care not to start it accidentally.

- **Battery type** 18 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 102cm-110cm (40-43 1/2 in)
- **Weight** 2.2kg
- **Running time** 30 minutes
- **Handle grip** Three-position, adjustable using Allen key
- **Comfort:** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head:** adjustable angle; 22cm (8 1/2 in) cutting width; tap 'n' go line feed
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes
- **Trimming/Edging** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** No
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 5 years
- **Price guide** £139.99



ONLY ONE ON-OFF SWITCH SO TAKE CARE NOT TO START IT ACCIDENTALLY WHEN CHARGED

➔ Ryobi RLT36 Lithium-Ion Line Trimmer

A very 'beefy' machine, almost a brushcutter. Variable speed trigger allows for accurate trimming, especially close to delicate objects.

- **Battery type** 36 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 152cm (60in)
- **Weight** 3.9kg
- **Running time** Up to 60 minutes
- **Handle grip** Position adjustable; plus shoulder strap
- **Comfort** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Fixed angle; adjustable cutting width 28cm-33cm (11-13in); auto line feed
- **Trimmer & edger** No
- **Trimming** ★★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** Yes
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Price guide** £199.98

➔ Black & Decker GLC1825L Strimmer

Only one on/off switch, so take care not to start it accidentally.

- **Battery type** 18 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 99cm-120cm (39-47in)
- **Weight** 2.4kg
- **Running time** Cuts up to 1,500m (5,000ft) of lawn edge
- **Handle grip** Angle adjustable
- **Comfort:** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Fixed angle; 25cm (10in) cutting width; automatic line feed
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes; attached lawn edging guide
- **Trimming/Edging:** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** No
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 2 years
- **Price guide** £125



Garden News BEST BUY

LIGHT, WELL BALANCED, TRIMMED AND EDGED WELL AND A DELIGHT TO USE

➔ Worx WG151E Cordless Grass Trimmer

- **Battery type** 18 Volt, lithium-ion
- **Length** 90cm-113cm (35 1/2-44 1/2 in)
- **Weight** 2.3kg
- **Running time** 20 minutes
- **Handle grip** Position adjustable
- **Comfort** ★★★★★
- **Trimmer head** Adjustable angle; 25cm (10in) cutting width; auto line feed
- **Trimmer & edger** Yes; separate edging guide wheels
- **Trimming/Edging** ★★★★★/★★★★
- **Tree/plant guard** Yes
- **Overall score** ★★★★★
- **Guarantee** 2 years
- **Price guide** £89.98



Suppliers

- **Black & Decker**
Tel: 01753 567055
www.blackanddecker.co.uk
- **Bosch**
Tel: 08447 360108
www.bosch-pt.co.uk
- **CEL-UK**
Tel: 08453 889769
www.cel-uk.com
- **Flymo from Husqvarna UK**
Tel: 08448 444558
www.flymo.com
- **Gtech**
Tel: 01905 345891
www.gtechonline.co.uk
- **ikra-Mogatec**
Tel: 01884 841551
www.ikramogatec.co.uk
- **Ryobi**
Tel: 01628 894400
www.ryobitools.co.uk
- **Tonino Lamborghini UK**
Tel: 01884 829071
www.tonino-lamborghini-garden.co.uk
- **Worx**
Tel: 08452 029679
www.worxtools.com
Available from B&Q and Argos.

Win our Best Buy trimmer

● WE have one Black & Decker GLC1825L strimmer to give away! Send your name and address to Garden News Trimmer Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough PE7 2FE or enter online at www.greatcompetitions.co.uk Closing date is August 9.

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