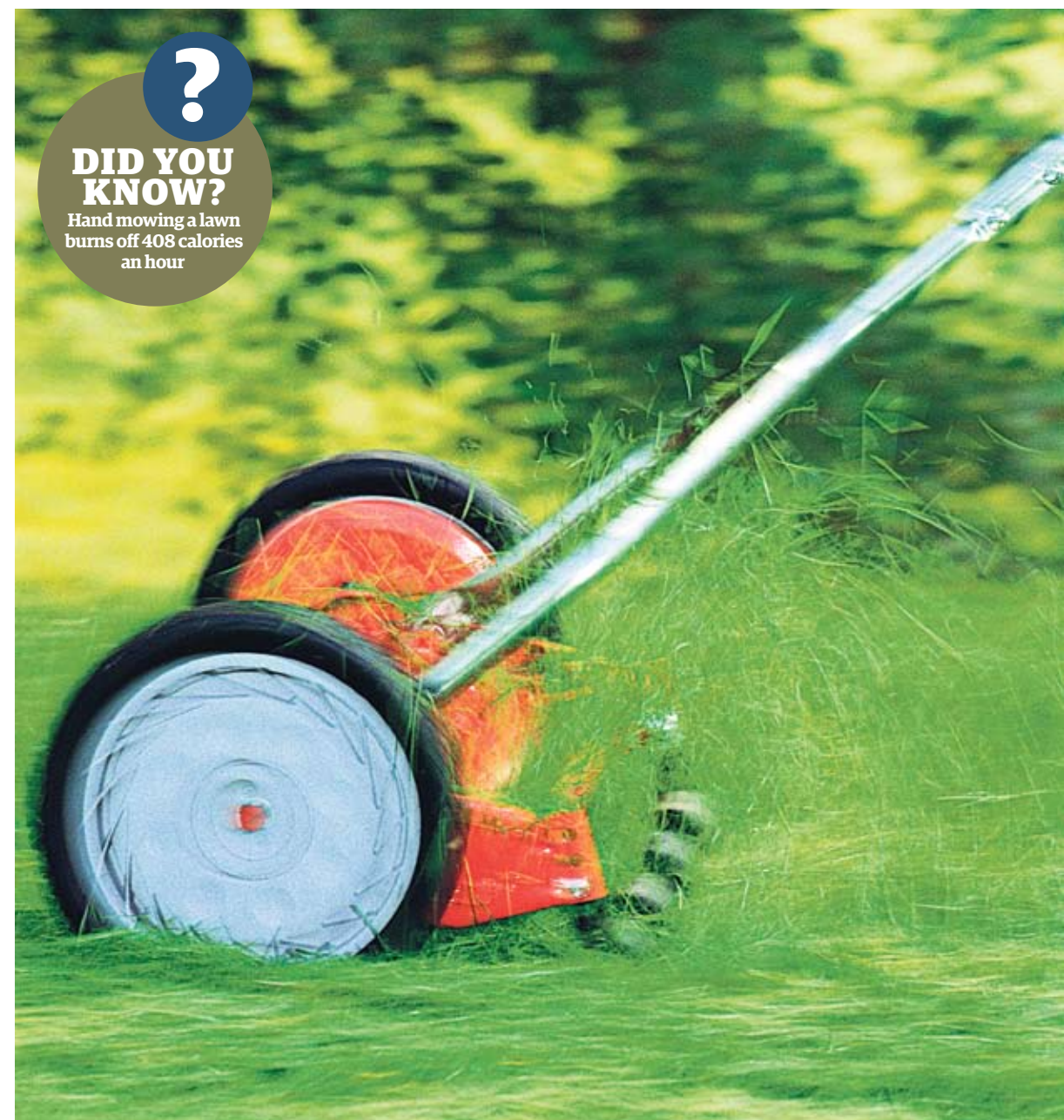


↘ Tried & tested / Push mowers



Pushing power!

Geoff Hodge tests the latest and greatest versions of a garden classic that's still going strong - the push mower



Geoff Hodge
Gardening journalist

ALTHOUGH most people these days own an electric or petrol lawnmower, there are still gardeners who prefer a good old push mower - although with new technology and materials, you can hardly call them 'old' any more.

Push mowers sales are still going

strong - their green credentials, the cost of fuel or power and the health-giving exercise they provide are probably the main reasons; some gardeners even have them as their 'second' mower.

Push mowers are all cylinder mowers - you wouldn't be able to produce enough 'push' to get a good, or indeed any cut from a rotary mower! Cylinder mowers give much better, cleaner cuts - providing the blades are sharp and aligned properly - than rotary mowers and are THE choice for high-quality lawns and the 'bowling green' effect. But they're also a great choice for the average lawn - like mine.

For absolutely perfect, clean cuts the better, especially if your lawn is made up of fine-leaved grass species.

The test

I have what's classed as an average lawn - the grass is a mix of some fine-leaved species along with some dwarf perennial ryegrass for durability.

I mowed two areas of my lawn: one that had already been cut this spring, so the grass was relatively short already; and the other that hadn't been cut, so the grass was somewhat longer, but not uncontrollably long.

All six mowers received the top score of five stars for cutting quality on both areas.

For some people, stripes are an essential part of the lawn and only the Handy Hand Mower with its rear roller has a large or heavy enough roller to produce stripes.

Dual-powered mower CELgarden POWERmow CY1

£189.90

This mower is dual powered, either from the 24V battery or by pushing. The battery will power the mower for 25-90 minutes, depending on grass length, thickness and cutting height.

- **Blades** four-bladed cylinder
- **Cutting width** 40cm (16in)
- **Ease of cutting** ★★★★★ with battery power, ★★★★ without battery power
- **Roller** lightweight, rear roller
- **Grass collection** rear woven grassbag
- **Cutting heights** four height settings, 1.5cm to 4.5cm (5/8-1 3/4in)
- **Ease of adjustment** ★★★★★
- **Weight** 18.2kg (40lb) with battery
- **Guarantee** one year



GN TOP TIP
Don't try to mow your lawn when wet - it's even more difficult with a push mower

Buy perennials
It's the perfect time to treat yourself to bargain young plants **Page 13**

Weeding tips
Steal a march on weeds before they get out of hand **Page 14**

www.gardennewsmagazine.co.uk

Handy Hand Mower With Rear Roller

£69.99

- **Blades** five-bladed cylinder
- **Cutting width** 30cm (12in)
- **Ease of cutting** ★★★★★
- **Roller** lightweight, front roller, large rear roller to give stripes
- **Grass collection** front woven grassbag
- **Cutting heights** infinitely variable, 1.3cm to 2.4cm (1/2-1in)
- **Ease of adjustment** ★★★★★
- **Weight** 11.1kg (24lb 7oz)
- **Other features** foam handle grips
- **Guarantee** 1 year



AL-KO 2.8HM Soft Touch

£62

- **Blades** five-bladed cylinder
- **Cutting width** 28cm (11in)
- **Ease of cutting** ★★★★★
- **Roller** lightweight, rear roller
- **Grass collection** rear woven grassbag
- **Cutting heights** four height settings, 1.4cm to 3.5cm (5/8-1 3/4in)
- **Ease of adjustment** ★★★★★
- **Weight** 7.5kg (16 1/2lb)
- **Guarantee** 2 years



Qualcast Panther 30

£44.99

- **Blades** four-bladed cylinder
- **Cutting width** 30cm (12in)
- **Ease of cutting** ★★★★★
- **Roller** lightweight, rear roller
- **Grass collection** rear, rigid plastic grassbox
- **Cutting heights** infinitely variable, from 1.2cm to 4cm (1/2-1 1/4in)
- **Ease of adjustment** ★★★, needs a spanner
- **Weight** 7.9kg (17lb 6oz)
- **Guarantee** two years



Fiskars Momentum Reel Mower

£199.99

- **Blades** five-bladed cylinder with StaySharp blades
- **Cutting width** 46cm (18in)
- **Ease of cutting** ★★★★★
- **Roller** none
- **Grass collection** no
- **Cutting heights** eight height settings, 2.5cm to 10cm (1-4in)
- **Ease of adjustment** ★★★★★
- **Weight** 23.5kg (51lb 11oz)
- **Other features** front guide wheels; soft rubber grip handle; ergonomic, adjustable handles; InertiaDrive cutting power
- **Guarantee** lifetime



Brill Razorcut Premium 33

£109.99; grassbag £24.99

- **Blades** five-bladed cylinder
- **Cutting width** 33cm (13in)
- **Ease of cutting** ★★★★★
- **Roller** lightweight, rear roller
- **Grass collection** rear woven grassbag; sold separately
- **Cutting heights** infinitely variable, 1.4cm to 4.5cm (5/8-1 3/4in)
- **Ease of adjustment** ★★★★★
- **Weight** 6.9 kg (15lb 3oz)
- **Other features** ergonomically shaped handle with soft rubber grip; height adjustment scale
- **Guarantee** 2 years



Suppliers

- **AL-KO** 01963 828055 www.alkogarden.co.uk
- **Brill**, from Henton & Chattell 0115 986 2161 www.hcuk.co
- **CEL-UK** 0845 388 9769 www.cel-uk.com
- **Fiskars** 0115 927 7335 www.fiskars.com
- **Handy** 01793 333205 www.handydistribution.co.uk
- **Qualcast** 0844 736 0108 www.qualcast.co.uk