

WHAT OUR USERS ARE SAYING

Preston Hall didn't have to be a landscape contractor. His father owned a successful hardware store in Shelbyville, Ky., and when his father decided it was time to sell the store, Hall had the opportunity to continue the family business.

Instead, Hall decided to start his own family business: Sgt. Preston's Lawn Care. More than 25 years later, he does not regret his decision.

"I still love to do what I do every day, that's all that matters," he says.

Part of the reason Hall loves his job so much is the Grasshopper mowers he uses to maintain a diverse client base of residences, cemeteries and commercial properties. The question is which he loves more: the job or his Grasshoppers.

"I've been very pleased with them," says Hall. "I always said I was going to get one, and in 1994, I bought my first 721D with a PowerVac™ collector."

Hall now owns three FrontMount™ 928D Grasshoppers, each equipped with a 61-inch DuraMax® deck. He also has two dozer blades for snow removal in the winter and a PowerVac™ collection system for leaf removal in the fall.

He purchased his "flagship" Grasshopper, The Old Man, new in 1999. Twelve years later, it has seen more than 8,500 hours of operation; his goal is to get The Old Man to 10,000 hours.

Hall says there are two fundamental reasons The Old Man has lasted so long. The first is the diesel engine, which he says is well built and extremely durable, and the second is the ease of maintenance and serviceability.

"When a machine is easy to maintain, it lasts longer, since there's nothing to keep you from it," he says. "That and Grasshoppers are very well designed. I love the PowerFold® feature. You just



push a button, the deck raises, you clean it out or change the blades, lower it, and you're off to cutting grass again. It's just that easy."

Another benefit of the diesel engines is the fuel economy. Hall can mow nearly all day on an 8-gallon tank of fuel. Not only does he use less fuel than he would if he ran gasoline, but he doesn't have to stop to refuel, saving him valuable time during the day.

With more than 40 regular accounts, Hall doesn't have time to waste refueling on the job or spending long periods of time on maintenance.

"My main concern is efficiency," he says. "I'm a one-man operation. Sometimes part-time firefighters help me, and my wife, Martha, and daughter, Grace, help me in their spare time, but for the most part, it's just me and The Old Man."

With Grasshopper, Hall is able to increase his efficiencies with the out-front mowing decks and zero-turn maneuverability. He is able to mow within 1 inch of trees, fences and gravestones, which greatly reduces the time it takes to complete secondary trimming. The maneuverability allows him to move around and between older, more congested sections of the cemeteries without wasted motion or repeat passes.

On a Grasshopper, I can mow at a fast pace and get a perfect cut.



Another benefit of using Grasshopper is the quality cut that the mowers provide. Hall says that even though some mower brands boast faster ground speeds, he is not convinced that faster is better.

"I'll cut a lawn at 3 inches on Monday and it looks great all week," he says.

Not only does he get the best cut in the best time with Grasshopper, but Hall also says the smooth ride makes mowing all day an enjoyable experience.

"I just love the ride. Those other mowers are rough. They'll beat you to death," he says. "If you're going to do this all day long, you should be comfortable. I can just sit back and cruise."

At the end of the day, Hall says he hasn't found anything that compares to Grasshopper.

"My customers say they really like what I do for them, and I say most of the credit is due to Grasshopper," he says. "I also say keep things simple: If it isn't broken, then don't fix it." ~