

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

What To Look For When Buying A Riding Mower

(NAPSA)—Your knowledge of riding mowers will get a lift if you know what to look for and what you're going to use it for.

Remember, riding mowers come in many varieties, from attachment-capable garden tractors to small rear engine riders. According to Murray Inc., a mower manufacturer for more than 50 years, a riding mower is a good choice if you have a large lawn and a place to store the mower.

Here are some good general rules you might follow when selecting a riding mower.

- **Rear Engine Riders**—For yards up to one acre. Especially popular with seniors, these are good for their clear front line of sight, and easier storage. They are smaller mowers with a 30" cut and easy to pass through gates in small yards.

- **Lawn Tractors**—For yards from one to three acres. These have more power and capability. Most lawn tractors also accept attachments such as snow blades and grass catchers.

- **Garden Tractors**—These are the ultimate size and versatility for properties over one acre. They typically have greater power and ability to accept ground-engaging attachments, such as tillers and cultivators.

What are the grass clipping options?

A 3-N-1 mower offers three different functions that handle grass clippings. It can discharge the grass out of the opening of the deck or mulch the grass by closing



Rear engine riders are for yards up to one acre. Because of their clear front line of sight, these are good for maneuvering around trees.

off the discharge opening or it can bag the grass for disposal with proper attachment.

What should you look for?

A good riding mower is an investment that will last for many mowing seasons. For riding mowers, look for an engine between eight and 18 horsepower. Try out the controls and make sure they are easy to operate. Make sure everyone who will use it can comfortably reach the foot pedals, steering wheel and cutting controls. A high console on tractors can make it difficult to get on and off. A step-through design offers increased leg room and easy on-and-off access.

To find a riding mower that's a cut above the rest, the experts at Murray recommend you visit a local retailer that sells quality garden equipment with models fully assembled and that will provide service when you need it. Prices range from \$787 to \$6,500 for a riding mower, so look carefully before making any decision. For more tips on buying a riding mower, visit www.murray.com.