

How to snag Home Depot's 12-foot skeleton after 'Skelly' sells out

USA Today Online

July 18, 2022

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Section: RETAIL INDUSTRY NEWS & **HOME DEPOT** NEWS

Length: 243 words

Byline: Brett Molina, USA TODAY

Body

Here's something that might spook Halloween lovers: **Home Depot's** popular 12-foot skeleton decoration is currently sold out.

The **home** improvement giant confirmed to USA TODAY that while Skelly, the nickname given to the 12-foot skeleton, is not available now, customers will have more chances to to adorn their **homes** with the Halloween decoration.

Lance Allen, **Home Depot's** senior merchant of holiday décor, said the retailer plans to restock Skelly throughout the summer to make sure as many customers that want one can buy it.

"The **Home Depot** will have plenty of 12 Ft Giant-Sized Skeletons releasing online throughout the summer and haunting local stores in August and September," said Allen.

Home Depot unveiled Skelly and other decorations last week as part of the unveiling of its assortment of Halloween items including inflatables and more.

The future of auto care: Old-school mechanics face dilemma as industry shifts to electric vehicles

Amazon's Prime Day: I spent \$119 – and saved \$51 – on sale items. Is this worth it?

Link to Image

Skelly is still bad to the bone. pic.twitter.com/cvw8pKp9i2

— The **Home Depot** (@HomeDepot)

July 14, 2022

Other decorations available on **Home Depot's** site include a 12-foot animated hovering witch, a 9-foot immortal werewolf, and a variety of Halloween lights and props.

Follow Brett Molina on Twitter: @brettmolina23.

*This article originally appeared on USA TODAY: How to snag **Home Depot's** 12-foot skeleton after 'Skelly' sells out*

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How to snag Home Depot's 12-foot skeleton after 'Skelly' sells out

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Team Home Depot assembles new gazebo as part of Pembroke's new Waterfront Arboretum

Pelham News

July 21, 2022 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 228 words

Body

A good news story unfolded on Wednesday, June 22 in Pembroke's Waterfront Park.

"Team **Home Depot**" was at the park's arboretum site to assemble a beautiful new gazebo which they donated to the project.

In addition, they kindly allowed the arboretum to acquire the store's display model at a heavily discounted price. This large unit was moved to the site by volunteers, with heavy equipment donated by BeeGee Farms. As a result, there is now a gazebo at each end of the arboretum, anchoring the book tree and Presenter's Corner.

An approaching thunderstorm required the team to put their efforts into overdrive, as they quickly secured the structure to its concrete supports.

The gazebos will provide shaded locations for the new Eco tables, which have just been assembled by local high school students in their shop classes. These tables are constructed from thousands of recycled drink bottles making them environmentally friendly as well as being very attractive and maintenance free.

Volunteers from the arboretum committee were highly impressed with the efficient and enjoyable atmosphere created by the store's employees, as they worked.

"It was so wonderful to be a part of this community project and I'm really proud of how well our team was able to piece the intricate gazebo components together," said **Home Depot's** team leader Tammie Tubman. Observer and News staff

Graphic

/ Members of Team **Home Depot** work to assemble a gazebo at Pembroke's new Waterfront Arboretum.; One of the two new gazebos located at the Pembroke Waterfront Arboretum. Inside are Eco tables which are constructed from thousands of recycled drink bottles and that were assembled by local high school students.;

Load-Date: July 21, 2022

Team Home Depot assembles new gazebo as part of Pembroke's new Waterfront Arboretum

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The Home Depot seeks to decorate more homes online

CE Noticias Financieras English

July 23, 2022 Saturday

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Length: 537 words

Body

The **Home Depot**, a **home** repair and design company, wants to continue growing in the decoration market and compete with firms specializing in this segment, but betting on its digital store.

In an interview with MILENIO, Erika Diaz, vice president of online sales, marketing and special services of the company in Mexico, said that the benefits of e-commerce allow them to have a broader portfolio in the segment and thus better meet the needs of the market

. "There are categories that we can try online, which allows us to grow the current categories and not be pigeonholed to what fits in a physical store. We are exploring new themes such as **home** decoration; we are exploring mirrors, tapestries, beds, among others," he commented.

Photo: Javier Ríos

"We are investing in the way we operate the online business, we have many peripheral systems that help us to improve the experience so that they can make their purchase in stores or on the website. We are experiencing an evolution in how we are investing in systems and technology, in the internal operation and the process is positive, we generate a lot of value to the associates to be more productive and it gives us the opportunity to reinvest to be able to continue making projects," he said.

In view of this scenario, the company is looking to make greater investments and changes in its business plan

"We are strengthening the omnichannel strategy, how we connect the stores with the Internet site, how we adapt to the consumer and that is what we have had for several years. We are definitely evolving with the customer," Diaz added.

As part of this plan, the company announced an investment of one billion pesos, which began in 2020 and will last until 2025; it contemplates the construction of nine logistics nodes and the expansion of its two multichannel distribution centers, located in Nuevo León and Hidalgo. These facilities supply 90 percent of the product to the 129 stores it has in the country.

Photo: Javier Ríos

"It is a multi-year investment program. We changed all the technological systems and equipment in each of these facilities to modernize them and make them increasingly more productive and efficient, thus reducing delivery times to improve the level of customer service and be in each of the stores and customers' **homes** as quickly as possible," said José del Ángel, senior director of supply chain operations at The **Home Depot**.

He explained that the company has response plans for each of its categories, for which it has developed specialized solutions.

José del Ángel said that planning this type of long-term capital injections allows the company to stay afloat in the face of supply chain disruptions at both the technological and inventory levels.

Photo: Javier Ríos

The last of the adjustments made by the company, part of its investment towards 2025, was that of its Cedis located in Ciénega de Flores. After these modifications, the complex has a surface area of 54 thousand square meters and a storage capacity of more than 22 thousand products.

The Home Depot seeks to decorate more homes online

In addition, it has 160 platforms for loading and unloading, which allows it to process more than 14 thousand boxes for direct deliveries to customers, stores and logistics nodes.

Photo: Javier RíosKL

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'We ARE in a recession!' Home Depot co-founder calls out Biden's gaslighting as he insists US economy has entered downturn and says president is to blame for inflation

MailOnline

July 30, 2022 Saturday 4:00 AM GMT

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Section: NEWS; Version:1

Length: 1086 words

Byline: Joseph Michalitsianos For Dailymail.Com

Body

- Ken Langone, co-founder of **Home Depot**, stood by his assertion that the US is in a recession and blamed President Biden for the downturn
- Langone said the problems are 'caused by the policies of the [Biden] administration'
- The entrepreneur from New York helped is a well-known donor of the Republican Party
- Langone's warning comes as a key measure of inflation in the United States has risen again, hitting a new four-decade high

Home Depot's co-founder has blasted Joe Biden's claim that the US isn't in a recession, says the economy is going down - and added that the president's economic policies were to blame for rocketing inflation.

Ken Langone appeared on Fox's 'Your World with Neil Cavuto' Friday, and said: 'Here's where we are. And by the way, I don't care how you want to define it.

'We can agree to one thing. The economy is receding. It's going down. Now, you want to call it a recession or not - play with the words.

'But the fact of the matter is, the economy is going down. Every place I'm looking, I'm seeing signs of pullback. ... This is serious stuff. And we are in a recession.'

Langone said President Biden was a source of the 'pullback,' and blasted his focus on green energy policies, which he says have ended the energy independence the US achieved under Donald Trump, sending the White House back into the arms of oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

'In many respects, it was caused by the policies of the [Biden] administration,' he said. 'Today, the president goes over with his hat in his hand to Saudi Arabia and begs them to turn the pipes up.'

Langone said he feels strongly about inflation because it 'hits the lower-income people more than anybody else.'

Earlier this week, Biden sought to claim that the US wasn't in a recession. He made the assertion despite figures showing two successive quarters of negative economic growth - the classic definition of a recession.

'We ARE in a recession!' Home Depot co-founder calls out Biden's gaslighting as he insists US economy has entered downturn and says president is to blame for in....

Langone, who hails from New York, helped co-found **Home Depot** in 1974 and is a well-known donor of the Republican Party.

Langone's warning comes as a key measure of inflation in the United States has risen again, hitting a new four-decade high as the Federal Reserve attempts to navigate the twin threats of rising prices and a shrinking economy.

The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index soared 6.8 percent in the 12 months through June, the biggest increase since January 1982 and a jump from May's reading of 6.3 percent.

The PCE measure, which is preferred by the Federal Reserve for its flexible 2 percent target rate, is an alternative gauge to the better-known consumer price index, which jumped 9.1 percent in June from a year ago.

Both measures are released monthly, and use different methods to calculate how much prices have risen for the average consumer.

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the PCE price index shot up 0.6 percent from the prior month after climbing 0.3 percent in May, in another sign that inflation is trending hot.

The so-called core PCE price index increased 4.8 percent on an annual basis in June after rising 4.7 percent in May.

The Commerce Department's report on Friday also showed that consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, rose 1.1 percent last month from May, more than expected.

The bump in consumer spending was nominally good news for the economy -- but nearly all of the increase was due to inflation, the report revealed.

Adjusted for inflation, consumer spending rose only 0.1 percent in June from the prior month. That was still a gain over May's inflation-adjusted change of -0.3 percent.

The latest data comes on a week of turbulent economic news that is forcing the Federal Reserve into a dilemma as it weighs monetary policy.

The Fed has been raising its benchmark interest rate aggressively to tackle inflation, adding on another supersized 0.75 point rate hike on Wednesday.

But the central bank faces tough choices about whether to continue raising rates after new data on Thursday showed the US economy contracted for the second quarter in a row.

Higher interest rates are the Fed's main tool to combat inflation. But raising the cost to borrow money also discourages consumers and businesses from taking out loans, reducing spending and putting pressure on economic growth.

It follows grim economic news that spurred furious debate this week about whether the US has entered a recession.

The Commerce Department said in a report on Thursday that US gross domestic product shrank 0.9 percent in the second quarter, following a decline of 1.6 percent decline in the first quarter.

Two consecutive quarters of shrinking GDP is the informal and longstanding definition of a recession, but the Biden administration insists that the US economy does not qualify as recessionary.

President Joe Biden insisted that the US economy is 'on the right path' despite the slowdown, touting the strong labor market.

'That doesn't sound like a recession to me,' he said in remarks at the White House.

'We ARE in a recession!' Home Depot co-founder calls out Biden's gaslighting as he insists US economy has entered downturn and says president is to blame for in....

It is true that most economists are reluctant to label the current situation a recession yet.

Unemployment remains near a five-decade low of 3.6 percent, and the economy has been creating jobs at a rapid pace in recent months.

There has never been a recession in the US that was not accompanied by a rapid increase in the unemployment rate.

Still, the second consecutive quarter of negative growth was a grim warning signal that all is not well with the economy.

'Seven of the nine leading indicators we tracked in June sent negative or neutral signals, highlighting continued weakening of economic conditions and possibly recession,' said S&P Global Ratings U.S. Chief Economist Beth Ann Bovino in a note to DailyMail.com.

Apart from the United States, the global economy as a whole is also grappling with high inflation and weakening growth, especially after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent energy and food prices soaring.

Europe, highly dependent on Russian natural gas, appears especially vulnerable to a recession. Repeated rounds of COVID-19 lockdowns in China have also disrupted world trade and supply chains.

In the United States, the inflation surge and fear of a recession have eroded consumer confidence and stirred public anxiety about the economy, which is sending frustratingly mixed signals.

With the November midterm elections nearing, Americans' discontent with the economy has diminished Biden's approval ratings and could increase the likelihood that the Democrats will lose control of the House and Senate.

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Stream movies, control smart appliances and more for less—save \$71 on a Google Nest Hub

USA Today Online

August 12, 2022

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Section: RETAIL INDUSTRY NEWS, RETAIL INDUSTRY NEWS, RETAIL INDUSTRY NEWS, RETAIL INDUSTRY NEWS, RETAIL INDUSTRY NEWS & DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION NEWS

Length: 422 words

Byline: Madison Durham, Reviewed

Body

Link to Image

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Ahead of the impending school year, stocking up on tech that will make your life easier is a smart choice—especially if you can save money doing it. The Google Nest Hub is currently on sale, and if you've been on the hunt for a smart **home** product that you can also use for streaming, you can nab it for over 50% off this week at **Home Depot**.

Get deals and shopping advice delivered straight to your phone. Sign up for text message alerts from the experts at Reviewed.

Right now, you can get a bundle containing the Google Nest Hub Second Generation smart **home** speaker and display with a two-pack of smart outlets on sale for \$54.99, saving you \$70.94. The original cost of the bundle is \$125.93, which reflects the inclusion of the Defiant Smart Plugs (which typically retail for \$12.97 each). so the original cost of the bundle (and the savings) reflects their inclusion.

Link to Image

We loved the Google Nest Hub when we tested it out—in her review, our **Home** Editor Rachel Murphy noted that the Hub comes with a great learning chip with 1.2 TeraOPS of processing and Google Assistant built in, as well as Voice Match technology. She also noted that the Nest Hub is great for entertainment, with a wide display, powerful speakers and easy-to-use controls.

The package also comes with two highly rated smart plugs that can increase connectivity between the lamps and appliances in your **home** using either Google Assistant or Hubspace from **Home Depot**, which offers users the chance to control their **home's** smart devices from their phone. You can connect devices to the Google Nest Hub via the smart plugs and execute commands from the comfort of your bedside.

If you've been on the hunt for a device that will help you manage your smart **home**, while also allowing you to stream video, track your sleep and listen to music, the Nest Hub is the move.

\$54.99 at **Home Depot**

Stream movies, control smart appliances and more for less—save \$71 on a Google Nest Hub

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Prices were accurate at the time this article was published but may change over time.

This article originally appeared on Reviewed: Stream movies, control smart appliances and more for less—save \$71 on a Google Nest Hub

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Paint company eyes global growth after landing major US supply deal

Irish News

July 19, 2022 Tuesday

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THE IRISH NEWS

Section: A6F0

Length: 695 words

Body

A CO Down paint company has landed a supply contract with one of the world's biggest DIY chains in a deal expected to be worth tens of millions of pounds.

Hillsborough-based King of Paints will soon begin supplying The **Home Depot**'s massive network of stores in north America.

The David and Goliath-style story will see the small Co Down business become just the fourth paint supplier for the United States' biggest

DIY chain, which generates around £8.3 billion in annual paint sales from some 2,300 stores.

It comes just six years after

Belfast native and founder Peter Hamill travelled to Buckingham Palace in a bid to convince the Lord Chamberlain's Office to permit him to use the King of Paints as a brand.

"Initially when I went to Buckingham Palace, they said no. But through a bit of tenacity, perseverance and after six months of communication they granted approval," he recalled.

With his foot already inside the door of the industry courtesy of a paint aerosol business, Peter's company, under its new Royal brand, has steadily built its reputation through online sales and a network of independent stockists over recent years.

But the business is now set to grow exponentially thanks to a series of major multinational contracts, and crucially manufacturing deals, which will see the paint made at four facilities in the US and in

Britain.

Alongside The **Home Depot**, King of Paints recently landed a supply deal with fast-growing UK department chain The Range.

The firm's paint range is also being sold by major online marketplaces including Fruugo, Onbuy, and Cdiscount, which has a bigger share of the online retail market in France than Amazon.

"We have parcels going out every day of the week to France, Spain, Germany and Italy," said Peter.

He said there are also talks with French online **home** improvement retailer ManoMano, Australian DIY giant Bunnings and B&Q/Screwfix owner Kingfisher.

Paint company eyes global growth after landing major US supply deal

"It's a very strong brand. It stands out and tells people subconsciously that we're better than any other paints sitting beside them," he said.

It hasn't all been plain sailing for the firm.

Peter recalled how the initial deal with The **Home Depot**, which involved shipping the paint across the Atlantic, fell through courtesy of the Trump Administration's 'America First' manufacturing policy.

In the interim, Peter set about building up his brand through online sales.

Positive customer feedback for his one-coat products has earned the brand a high ranking with Amazon, which in turn has helped bring other major retailers on board.

The Covid-19 lockdown also brought Peter back in touch with

an old school friend from his days

as a boarder at Portora Royal in

Enniskillen.

American Marc Sant Angelo subsequently joined the business and helped build up the infrastructure in the US, which has finally brought The **Home Depot** deal over the line.

Highlighting the enormity of the achievement, Marc said: "**Home Depot** has three main lines of paint brands right now.

"They turn over £8.3bn per year on paint sales.

"We're just the fourth brand to be introduced."

Peter credited the enthusiasm and expertise of his small team in their success in pitching their products in the US.

"It has taken a long time to get infrastructure set up in the States, but we've done it," he said.

Although the paint is being manufactured elsewhere and plans are in place to set up a new US office in Atlanta, Peter said it remains crucial for him that the business headquarters remains in Co Down.

"Everything is going to be run from our offices in Hillsborough," he said.

"This time next year we will have to take on another 10-13 employees to help run our back office operations 24/7 from Co Down."

A single father, Peter also disclosed the important role his 11-year-old daughter Lauren has played in the business.

Alongside picking the King of Paints brand, a logo designed by Lauren appears on every tin of paint sold by the company.

"To keep me motivated, I had it put on every single tin of paint we make," said Peter.

"The feedback from our local stockists, they find it quite lovely.

"I'm building this business up for my daughter, to create a legacy for her, and with Marc's help, to create a global brand," he said.

Paint company eyes global growth after landing major US supply deal

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'The socialists are taking over,' Whole Foods CEO John Mackey laments

The Guardian (London)

August 11, 2022 Thursday 5:42 PM GMT

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Section: BUSINESS; Version:2

Length: 544 words

Byline: Lauren Aratani

Highlight: Libertarian co-founder of Amazon-owned grocery chain, who once compared Obamacare to fascism, is to retire in September

Body

The "socialists are taking over" Whole Foods' CEO and co-founder, John Mackey, has lamented in a recent podcast interview.

"They're marching through the institutions. They're taking everything over. They're taking over education. It looks like they've taken over a lot of corporations. It looks like they've taken over the military, and it's just continuing," he told the libertarian magazine Reason in a podcast released on Wednesday.

"I feel like with the way freedom of speech is today, the movement on gun control, a lot of the liberties that I've taken for granted most of my life, I think are under threat," Mackey said.

Mackey pegged the candid sharing of his political opinions to his upcoming retirement as Whole Foods' chief executive in September.

"In six weeks, I will retire from Whole Foods, and I have muzzled myself ever since 2009," Mackey said, referring to the op-ed he penned for the Wall Street Journal that year where he compared Obamacare to fascism.

"My board basically shut me down. It's like a father, they started attacking the child, and I was intimidated enough to shut up," Mackey told Reason. He compared his upcoming experience to the **Home Depot** billionaire and conservative Bernie Marcus.

"People were constantly going after **Home Depot** to get them to shut up Bernie Marcus. **Home Depot** has to say Bernie retired over 20 years ago, we can't get him to shut up, you have to take it to Bernie," he said.

"I was telling my leadership team pretty soon, you're going to be hearing about 'crazy John' who's no longer muzzled, and you're going to have to say, 'We can't stop John from talking any longer.'"

Though the Whole Foods executive has long been outspoken about his libertarian beliefs – the New Yorker in 2010 referred to him as a "rightwing hippie" – Mackey said he would be able to "talk more about politics in six weeks than I can today".

Mackey co-founded a natural foods grocery store in 1978 that was eventually merged with other stores to make Whole Foods. The brand would eventually expand, buying out smaller stores and competitors, until it was

'The socialists are taking over,' Whole Foods CEO John Mackey laments

purchased by Amazon in 2017 for \$13.7bn. Mackey and the Whole Foods brand is credited with helping to popularize organic food in the United States. The chain has about 500 stores across the US, Canada and the UK.

In his interview with Reason, Mackey criticized the younger generation, saying, "they don't seem like they want to work."

"Younger people aren't quick to work because they want meaningful work," he said. "You can't expect to start with meaningful work. You're going to have to earn it over time."

Over the last few years, Amazon has been staunchly trying to resist unionization efforts – particularly in its warehouses – and Whole Foods has been no exception.

In 2020, it was revealed that the company created a heat map to track stores that were at risk of unionization. Even before Amazon's acquisition of the grocery chain, the company had a history against unions, including hiring an anti-union consulting firm and amending the employee handbook to ban recording of all work-related activities without management approval. When Amazon enacted a \$15 minimum wage for workers, including Whole Foods employees, in 2019, workers at the chain said they saw their hours cut.

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The Week Ahead: Can housing cool off without hurting confidence?

The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington)

August 15, 2022 Monday

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Section: BUSINESS; Pg. A10

Length: 388 words

Byline: Tom Hudson Miami Herald

Highlight: Few industries are as sensitive to interest rate changes as housing. As borrowing costs rise, purchasing power declines. That creates a drag on accelerating **home** prices, which can stimulate more owners to put their **homes** up for sale in hopes of cashing in before prices fall.

Supply increases as demand drops - threatening a wicked cycle for what often is Americans' biggest investment.

Body

Few industries are as sensitive to interest rate changes as housing. As borrowing costs rise, purchasing power declines. That creates a drag on accelerating **home** prices, which can stimulate more owners to put their **homes** up for sale in hopes of cashing in before prices fall.

Supply increases as demand drops - threatening a wicked cycle for what often is Americans' biggest investment.

It is one of the worries as the Federal Reserve fights inflation. The central bank must raise its target short-term interest rate in hopes of cooling pandemic-induced higher prices. Mortgage rates have jumped as a result. The average 30-year mortgage interest rate has almost doubled from a year ago. That adds about \$600 a month to the cost of borrowing money to buy a median priced existing **home**. Investors will get a look at three important gauges on the housing market in the week ahead.

The National Association of **Home** Builders August index will be released today. **Home** builders are asked about their views on the single-family **home** market now and in the next six months. Both have been falling fast.

On Tuesday, July stats on starting construction of new **homes** are due. Single-family **home** construction has been slowing thanks to higher borrowing costs, more expensive building materials and rising labor costs. **Home** building stocks have been among the worst performers this year for investors.

And the two largest **home** improvement retailers, **Home Depot** and Lowe's, will announce their latest quarterly results on Tuesday and Wednesday. Their businesses boomed when people were staying **home** to avoid COVID-19 and spending money to fix up their **homes** and **home** offices.

That buying binge has slowed. The stores have experienced supply chain challenges and inflationary pressures such as double-digit wholesale price hikes of major appliances like refrigerators and washing machines. That squeezes profit margins as the stores are careful about how much of those higher costs to pass along to buyers. (Full disclosure: I have owned **Home Depot** stock for more than a decade.)

The Fed isn't about to pause its interest rate hikes if the housing market shows signs of slowing. It is unlikely to blink even if **home** prices begin to fall, at least a little. A cooler housing market will help improve the inflation outlook even if it shakes economic confidence.

Load-Date: August 15, 2022

Pushing lawn mowers to greener future; Our trusty grass trimmers have evolved from muscle-powered machines to today's app-run robots

The Toronto Star

July 16, 2022 Saturday

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Section: REAL ESTATE EAST; Pg. H1-H4

Length: 647 words

Byline: Carola Vyhnak Special To The Star

Body

When lawns became a thing centuries ago, sheep and scythes kept the grass trimmed and tidy. Then the battle of the blades began in 1830 as British inventor Edwin Budding patented his cylinder mower, which used multiple blades to slice the grass scissor-like against a stationary sharp edge.

Today, high-tech robots can cut grass down to size under the watchful eye of smartphone users. Most people, though, still tame their jungles themselves, with a growing number turning to greener, gas-free methods.

"We've seen customer interest in cordless lawn mowers grow year over year," says **Home Depot** Canada's Milgo Noor, noting that new products and technology are constantly added to meet demands.

Inventor Budding's cylinder push mower, built of wrought iron, was initially used on sports fields, cemeteries and expansive gardens. Make that expensive, because in the early days, lawns were a sign of wealth and status.

On this side of the pond, mechanical grass-cutting evolved more slowly, with the first U.S. patent granted in 1868. One Victorian neighbourhood in Toronto used its front yards to grow cabbages after Irish families fled famine-ravaged Ireland in the 1840s - hence the name "Cabbagetown."

In the mid-19th century, horses wearing soft leather boots to protect the delicate greenery were used to pull mowers, according Briggs & Stratton, creators of a lightweight aluminum engine in the 1950s.

Horsepower was followed by steam, then human-powered machines advertised as being easy enough for young women to use. Ads for one model in the 1870s and '80s feature a young woman pushing "the most beautiful and perfect lawn mower in the world."

By the late 1800s, power mowers had arrived but were melted down for their metal during the Second World War a half-century later.

Post-war, the spawn of the suburban lawn spurred the development of all types of mowers, which now include gas-powered, corded (electric plug-in), cordless (battery), manual and riding models. Some are self-propelled while others require more muscle power. While cylinder mowers employ multiple blades, rotary mowers use one blade that rotates at high speed on a vertical axis, relying on impact to cut the grass.

Imagine the terror that caused the quarter-inch-tall Szalinski children in the 1989 movie "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" as a monster mower bore down on them in their own backyard. They were the unwitting victims of their dad's (Rick Moranis) invention gone wrong.

Pushing lawn mowers to greener future; Our trusty grass trimmers have evolved from muscle-powered machines to today's app-run robots

Noisy, gas-powered machines don't cut it for lawn owners concerned about the health of people and planet. A Swedish study found that using a gas mower for one hour leaves the same carbon footprint as a 160 kilometre car trip.

"Electric lawn mowers run quietly, save fuel and maintenance costs, and with the latest innovation, now offer many of the same features as gas models," says Noor, merchandising assistant for outdoor power at **Home Depot** Canada.

Corded models with six- to 12-amp motors are good for smaller areas, but a cordless battery model will provide more mobility on larger lawns, she says.

Many makes of electric mowers are now on the market, including RYOBI, Greenworks, EGO, Toro and Black+Decker. RYOBI alone makes multiple versions, from a lightweight 18V, 13-inch, walk-behind model to 48V riding mowers that run for up to two hours.

With a price tag of \$898, RYOBI's 40V HP cordless mower from its Whisper series is "really popular" with **Home Depot** customers, according to Noor. "These mowers are up to 85 per cent quieter than gas and give you all the power without the noise."

Choosing a lawn mower - whether electric, gas or a manual reel push type - starts with personal preference. But generally, a manual reel or electric mower is suitable for less than a quarter-acre while gas or high-powered electric machines are required for larger lawns and uneven terrain, says Noor.

Unless, of course, sheep are your option.

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Pushing lawn mowers to greener future; Our trusty grass trimmers have evolved from muscle-powered machines to today's app-run robots

The Toronto Star

July 16, 2022 Saturday

ONT Edition

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Section: REAL ESTATE EAST; Pg. H1

Length: 651 words

Byline: Carola Vyhnak Special to the Star

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When lawns became a thing centuries ago, sheep and scythes kept the grass trimmed and tidy. Then the battle of the blades began in 1830 as British inventor Edwin Budding patented his cylinder mower, which used multiple blades to slice the grass scissor-like against a stationary sharp edge.

Today, high-tech robots can cut grass down to size under the watchful eye of smartphone users. Most people, though, still tame their jungles themselves, with a growing number turning to greener, gas-free methods.

"We've seen customer interest in cordless lawn mowers grow year over year," says **Home Depot** Canada's Milgo Noor, noting that new products and technology are constantly added to meet demands.

Inventor Budding's cylinder push mower, built of wrought iron, was initially used on sports fields, cemeteries and expansive gardens. Make that expensive, because in the early days, lawns were a sign of wealth and status.

On this side of the pond, mechanical grass-cutting evolved more slowly, with the first U.S. patent granted in 1868. One Victorian neighbourhood in Toronto used its front yards to grow cabbages after Irish families fled famine-ravaged Ireland in the 1840s - hence the name "Cabbagetown."

In the mid-19th century, horses wearing soft leather boots to protect the delicate greenery were used to pull mowers, according to Briggs & Stratton, creators of a lightweight aluminum engine in the 1950s.

Horsepower was followed by steam, then human-powered machines advertised as being easy enough for young women to use. Ads for one model in the 1870s and '80s feature a young woman pushing "the most beautiful and perfect lawn mower in the world."

By the late 1800s, power mowers had arrived but were melted down for their metal during the Second World War a half-century later.

Post-war, the spawn of the suburban lawn spurred the development of all types of mowers, which now include gas-powered, corded (electric plug-in), cordless (battery), manual and riding models. Some are self-propelled while others require more muscle power. While cylinder mowers employ multiple blades, rotary mowers use one blade that rotates at high speed on a vertical axis, relying on impact to cut the grass.

Pushing lawn mowers to greener future; Our trusty grass trimmers have evolved from muscle-powered machines to today's app-run robots

Imagine the terror that caused the quarter-inch-tall Szalinski children in the 1989 movie "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" as a monster mower bore down on them in their own backyard. They were the unwitting victims of their dad's (Rick Moranis) invention gone wrong.

Noisy, gas-powered machines don't cut it for lawn owners concerned about the health of people and planet. A Swedish study found that using a gas mower for one hour leaves the same carbon footprint as a 160 kilometre car trip.

"Electric lawn mowers run quietly, save fuel and maintenance costs, and with the latest innovation, now offer many of the same features as gas models," says Noor, merchandising assistant for outdoor power at **Home Depot** Canada.

Corded models with six- to 12-amp motors are good for smaller areas, but a cordless battery model will provide more mobility on larger lawns, she says.

Many makes of electric mowers are now on the market, including RYOBI, Greenworks, EGO, Toro and Black+Decker. RYOBI alone makes multiple versions, from a lightweight 18V, 13-inch, walk-behind model to 48V riding mowers that run for up to two hours.

With a price tag of \$898, RYOBI's 40V HP cordless mower from its Whisper series is "really popular" with **Home Depot** customers, according to Noor. "These mowers are up to 85 per cent quieter than gas and give you all the power without the noise."

Choosing a lawn mower - whether electric, gas or a manual reel push type - starts with personal preference. But generally, a manual reel or electric mower is suitable for less than a quarter-acre while gas or high-powered electric machines are required for larger lawns and uneven terrain, says Noor.

Unless, of course, sheep are your option.

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