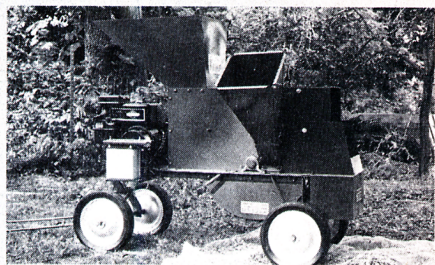


CHIPPER/SHREDDER

Dan McCorkindale, *F&G's* Assistant for the Demonstration Garden, tested three new chipper/shredders this summer. Here are the results:



Kemp's Electric Master Gardener K6CHE

K6CHE (electric start); 5-hp Briggs & Stratton; \$1186. Kemp Co., 160 Koser Rd., Dept FG, Lititz, PA 17543.

(A similar model without electric start, the Master Gardener K6CH, is available for \$987.)

The chipper will accept material up to three inches in diameter and the shredder handles $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch material nicely. This is the only machine we tested with a rotating drum. The drum's 42 hammers are fixed in position but the drum itself turns at 1350 rpm's.

The shredder's grinding screen holes are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and produce a uniform mulch. The screen is fixed so cannot be interchanged with other mesh sizes.

The machine started easily, ran smoothly and is the only chipper/shredder which never clogged during the tests. An anti-clog door located at the base of the machine is designed to prevent it from overloading and does just that. The operator simply presses down with his/her foot on the anti-clog lever which opens a door and allows the offending object/s to fall to the ground.

The handle on this model can be lifted and fastened in an upright position to facilitate storage.



Amerind-MacKissic's Mighty Mac 12-PT 12-PT (not an electric start); 5-hp Briggs & Stratton; \$1211. Amerind-MacKissic, Inc., P.O. Box 111, Dept. FG, Parker Ford, PA 19457.

The chipper accepts material up to three inches in diameter; the shredder takes

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$\frac{1}{4}$ -inch material easily and will take a lot of it at once. Chipping is accomplished by a chrome steel blade mounted on a steel flywheel. It also has a rotor with 24 free swinging hammers.

The shredder's grinding screen holes are one inch in diameter; however, you can order $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch changeable screens to make very fine mulch or compost. A bar screen is also available for working with wet or soggy organic products.

The chipper hopper is removable, which helps if you have limited storage room.

The Mighty Mac is easy to start and ran like a champ during the tests. Dan's feeling about this machine is that it is very easy to use because there aren't many extraneous options to deal with.



Lightning Model 612

Model 612-5 (not an electric start); 5-hp Briggs & Stratton; \$1049. Gardener's Supply Co., 128 Intervale Rd., Dept. FG, Burlington, VT 05401.

(A similar model, the 612-3.5, is available with a 3.5-hp Tecumseh motor for \$799.)

The chipper will accept three-inch-diameter limbs and will shred $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch material. Limbs inserted through the cone-shaped chipper hopper pass into an opening where two steel knives send chips into the shredder. There eight free-swinging hammers complete the process.

The shredder's grinding screen has $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter holes which can be replaced with $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch or $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch screens.

This machine also starts easily but does have a clutch which has to be engaged in order to make the chipper/grinder rotor turn. This wasn't a very smooth operation for Dan but he thinks that it is simply characteristic of a brand new machine and that the clutch will engage more smoothly after some use.

A nice feature of this machine is the ability to directly bag the shredded material coming out of the discharge chute. A cardboard pusher or some other kind of wood object is necessary in order to get material moving through the shredder, but once the material is started it tends to self-feed.