



**AMAIZEINGLY GREEN  
GAS POWERED LAWNMOWERS A MAJOR SOURCE OF POLLUTION.**

In the past few weeks I have introduced various aspects of natural lawn care. In the last 2 weeks I have encouraged homeowners to consider a new locally produced product called Amaizeingly Green to replace the weed and feed at this time of year. This week I am talking about the lawn mower.

I own a gas powered lawn mower that is about 10 years old. It works fine, but I've been hearing a lot about how much air pollution comes from these mowers. They are also quite noisy. So I thought I would take a look at what I should do to replace the mower. If your budget won't allow replacement this year, at least have it tuned and the blade sharpened, to make it as efficient as possible.

Gas powered mowers may not seem to use a lot of gasoline, but they are also not equipped for emission controls the way our new cars are mandated to be. In fact the Clean Air Foundation indicates that running your gas powered mower for one hour is the same as driving your new car for 550 km. That's for a 2 stroke engine and mine is a four stroke so it's a bit better. That still hit me hard and got me thinking about moving the replacement of my mower forward. I'd like to make my lawn area as environmentally friendly as possible over the next year or so.

I want to make the switch to an electric cordless mower that has enough power to cut the grass effectively and can be recharged with renewable energy. That way I cut down my green house gas emissions to zero. Add the solar charger and you are certain all of the energy is earth friendly. The electric mowers are also very much quieter so you won't bother your neighbour when they decide to have a BBQ just when you need to cut the grass.

I never use a grass catcher because mulching is both easier and it feeds the soil with a source of organic matter every week. If you do use a grass catcher, you should at least compost in your own yard.

There have been amazing improvements in the electric mowers recently and there are reputable manufacturers in Southern Ontario that put out a reliable product. If your lawn is very small and you are very energetic, you could go with the push mower. My lawn is about 4000 sq. ft. and well within the range of cutting on one charge for the cordless electric. I owned chord electrics before and they are fine too. They are just cumbersome if you have trees and obstacles in your yard.

So if you are planning on a new mower, the best thing you can do for the environment is to seriously look at the cordless electric. In fact one of the major chains in town will give you up to \$ 100 for your old mower in a current promotional campaign. This step is one of the most important as we move to make our yard carbon neutral and toxin free.

The Rotary Club is now delivering AMAIZEINGLY GREEN fertilizer. To order please visit [www.rotarycollingwoodsgb.org](http://www.rotarycollingwoodsgb.org) or contact any member of the club. Be sure to quote the promotional code 54505 so we get the credit from your sale for Rotary projects.

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