

Home & Garden

Man and Mower - cut to the heart of personality

(NC)—It's no secret that you can tell a lot about a man by the car he drives.

Want proof? Picture the devoted family man and a sensible sedan or van comes to mind. Likewise, the style-conscious professional wouldn't be seen in

anything but a high-performance sports car. And there's little doubt that the person tooling around in a hybrid electric vehicle feels strongly about the environment.

What's parked in the driveway also is a good indicator of

what's stored in the garden shed, according to John DeFranco, The Home Depot Canada's buyer for outdoor power equipment.

"The same factors that influence the decision-making process when buying an auto-

mobile can be applied when selecting a new mower," said DeFranco. "When shopping for a new car, you compare the features, kick the tires and check under the hood, but in the end it's the one that best suits your personality that seals the deal."

DeFranco offers the following "personality profiles" to match man and machine.

Dream Machine

For those who dream of owning a Hummer and wouldn't drive anything but a 4-wheel-drive, John Deere tractors exceed even the toughest test. With plenty of power under the hood, cruise control, automatic transmission, a deluxe high-back seat and even a power port for plugging in a cell phone or CD player, these machines will keep the driver content for hours.

Cut to the Chase

The family man who prefers to drive a van or sedan wants a reliable mower that will complete the job quickly, since the yard is little more than a distraction from the busy rigors of home life.

"There's no question that this personality requires easy lawn maintenance," DeFranco said. He suggests an easy-starting, low-maintenance mower, designed for demanding residential mowing that leaving more time for a friendly chat with your neighbour.

The Manicurist

If the lure of European precision and high-performance sports cars fires you up, Toro

mowers will take you where you want to go. This is the perfect mower for those who like exact cuts, precise edging and plenty of compliments from envious neighbours.

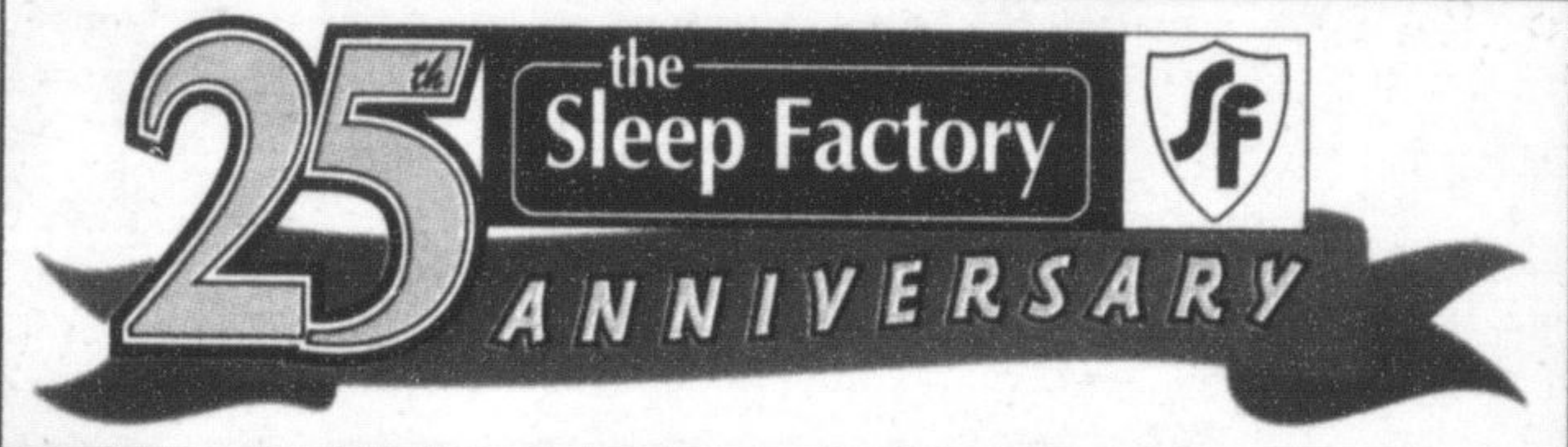
"There's no need to break a sweat with one of these mowers," said DeFranco. "The self-propelled system allows you to slow down or speed up effortlessly, something you'll appreciate on a hot day."

Mr. Down to Earth

For the sentimentalist or grounded environmentalist who sees green, a push reel or electric mower is the way to go. Neither type has an internal combustion engine. They are quieter and don't produce emissions like gas-powered mowers.

Battery-powered mowers are good for smaller yards and require little maintenance. Push reel mowers are simple machines with no power source, so you'll get a light cardiovascular workout while sprucing up your yard.

No matter what your personality type, DeFranco said, size up your landscaping needs before purchasing a new mower. Next, take a look in the driveway.



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Repel summer insects and enjoy the best of the outdoors

(NC)—Warmer weather often brings a pesky problem - insects. With the presence of West Nile Virus, bugs are causing more concern than ever before. Visit Canadian Tire for a full line of protective products to help stop these pests from ruining the summer. Try these tips to help you enjoy the outdoors:

- Protect yourself with a non-DEET personal bug repellent. Made from the lemon eucalyptus plant, this repellent is non-toxic and as effective as DEET-based products.
- The Mosquito Magnet attracts and kills mosquitoes and all other biting insects by mimicking the signals that attract them

- to humans and animals.
- Create a safe outdoor environment for family inside a sturdy screen house. Made from "no-see 'em" mesh, these screen houses are designed to allow a cool breeze to pass through but are woven together so tightly, even the smallest of insects cannot penetrate.
- If you're planning to go walking or hiking, consider bug jackets and hats that help keep you cool and protected from insect bites.
- In the evening, illuminate outdoor spaces and keep insects away with aromatic citronella candles or post wicker and bamboo citronella torches.