

✓ *Field Test Report*

Tanaka TLE 600 Edger

Bill White

Impact Landscaping, Morgantown, W.Va.



When I was first asked to test this new edger from Tanaka, I thought I might never find one because of demand. As the old adage goes, though, "Good things come to those who wait." The new TLE 600 edger from Tanaka is worthy of the hype surrounding its debut this spring. Our thanks go out to Tom Small from Canns-Bilco, our local Tanaka distributor, who was instrumental in securing a unit for us to test.

Looking the unit over, you can't help but notice how well this unit is built. The remote air filter system is a welcome addition that we do not have on our current edger. Dry, dusty soils would be no problem with the clean air intake way above the debris and dust area. Undoubtedly, this will help extend the life of the engine.

Our soils here are mostly rocky and full of clay. We had many days of light snows, thundershowers and 35-degree temperature swings during our testing, but the TLE 600 had no problem going through the damp soils and fescue lawns. However, it did have a tendency to collect some soil inside the debris shield every so often; in drier conditions, this would not be a problem. Another thing we noticed was that the debris was well controlled and not thrown everywhere, as our walk-behind unit is known for.

At only 54 pounds, the TLE 600 is maneuverable and easy enough for one person to lift in and out of a pickup bed. The 2.5 hp two-cycle engine provides plenty of torque and has plenty of power for the toughest of edging tasks you may encounter. We did sidewalks, driveway edges and

even ran it along several landscaping beds for a reshaping from last fall. The gear reduction places all the available torque at the blade for maximum cutting efficiency. The large fuel tank, at 87.9 fluid ounces, provides a long run time without frequent refueling stops. The longer a machine runs, the more money you are making with it.

Changing the cutting depth is as easy as squeezing the left hand lever, and raising or lowering the machine to the desired depth. I believe there are nine choices for cutting depths available on this machine. It is simple to change and maintain your progress without taking your hand from the handlebar; it is a nice feature that we enjoyed.

From the moment you start the easy starting engine, you can tell this edger means business. It is quiet as well, which is a plus for some LCOs who must deal with noise ordinances. The solid steel drive shaft delivers power and torque aplenty for reduced belt wear and breakage in the middle of a job, translating into greater productivity and ultimately more profits.

Tanaka also makes a curb-riding kit and a drop-wheel kit for those who have lots of curb edging to perform. We did not use either of these extra options during our testing. We are impressed with the overall function and design of this edger and recommend it to anyone in the market for a new walk-behind edger. I hear there is a high demand for the new TLE 600 from Tanaka, and now I know why.

You better get one now; spring is right around the corner.

