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The Gas-Powered Garden: Just Say NO - Earth911.com

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Small, gas-powered engines are about to overtake cars as the worst polluters in California. Operating the best-selling commercial lawn mower for one hour emits as much smog-forming pollution as driving a Toyota Camry from Los Angeles to Las Vegas.

Not only do gas-powered garden tools contribute to general air pollution, but the gardeners who operate them are exposed to carcinogenic exhaust fumes that raise their risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and respiratory illness. In 2020, California will consider new emission standards, but you can just say “No” to gas-powered garden tools now.

Leaf Blowers

Most leaf blowers utilize a two-stroke engine. Fuel must be mixed with oil in these engines. Only 70 percent of the fuel completely combusts. As a result, two-stroke engines produce nearly 300 times the hydrocarbon emissions of a pickup truck.

Leaf blower haters would argue that the machines are unnecessary in the first place — leaves should be raked up, not blown around — but if you find them useful, performance ratings for electric models are as high as gas.

