Leaf Blower Buying Guide
How to choose a leaf blower for your fall projects

There are two main types of leaf blowers: handheld and backpack models. Both types are usually powered by either a 2-stroke or 4-stroke engine. Some handheld blowers also provide a blower-vacuum combination. There are many different models, attachments and performance options available for different applications. Compared to leaf blowers manufactured in the early 1990’s, today’s leaf blowers are quieter and cleaner.

How to choose a leaf blower – Important factors to consider

Before purchasing a STIHL blower for your home, farm or ranch, consider these important factors:

- Property size
- Type of material to blow
- Noise restrictions or considerations
- Special features on blower models

Urban Setting

To blow grass clippings and other light materials off relatively small areas like driveways, sidewalks and patios, we recommend choosing a blower like the STIHL BG 50. You can also upgrade to the BG 56 C-E, with its popular simplified starting and Easy2Start™ features. Power and performance for both models are comparable.

Starting the BG 50 blower is standard procedure: After setting the on-off switch to the "on" position, lock the throttle trigger, set the choke and start the blower with a pull of the cord.

Contrastingly, the BG 56 C-E’s on-off switch defaults to the "start" position as a function of its simplified starting system. Enjoy a smooth pull of the starting cord with the STIHL Easy2Start™ system making starting virtually effortless. Once the blower starts and you squeeze the throttle trigger, the choke automatically switches to the "run" position. You’re off and blowing!

Rural Property

If you have more acreage but still need to displace lighter debris and grass clippings, we recommend the more powerful BG 86 or BG 86 C-E professional handheld blower units. Both feature an advanced anti-vibration system and the simplified starting process. The BG 86 C-E also includes the Easy2Start™ feature.

Lighten Your Load

If you plan to use your blower for extended periods of time, consider the BR 200 backpack blower with a lightweight design and anti-vibration technology. If you have a large clearing site, such as a ranch or farm, or if you need to move wet leaves and other heavy debris, then we suggest the BR 350 backpack blower.

Keeping It Quiet

When selecting a leaf blower in areas where noise restrictions exist, we recommend the gasoline-powered BG 66 L – a professional handheld blower. This quiet yet powerful blower features a specially designed muffler in the blower tube making it ideal for use in some noise-sensitive areas. Or consider a cordless or corded electric blower model.