

Orec riding mower review by Deb Carey

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Pro:

- The Orec mower has proved itself mowing trails and fire lines in tight spaces where our John Deere tractor and brush mower does not have room to maneuver around trees and wet areas. The mower is very simple to drive, and has a low center of gravity.
- Thick and tall vegetation has not slowed the mower. I have mowed prairie grass 36 inches in height – slowly. Quarter-inch in diameter saplings are cleanly cut. One thing I will say, after hitting quite a few stumps in 2019, the mower just stops with no damage to the blade. The mower has two flail blades on either end of the main center blade. This allows the blades to pivot when they hit obstacles. The spindle, deck and basically the entire mower are built very tough.
- The Orec mower has been helpful in mowing invasives that have invaded fragile area where a regular tractor and mower would cause additional damage.
- Most volunteers feel comfortable using a mower based upon a regular riding lawn mower; many volunteers do not have skills needed to drive the John Deere. The Orec is easy to load and transport on a small trailer.

Con:

- One drawback of using the Orec is that the driver is low to the ground and needs to wear protection from thorns.
- The Orec cuts to a height of 4.7 inches. It would be much preferable if the mower had a cutting height of 6 to 8 inches so you didn't have to worry about hitting stumps, although I have hit quite a few stumps with absolutely no damage to the mower.
- The Orec can be purchased with 4-wheel drive. Mine does not have this option because of cost.

- There is no dealer in Illinois. A local implement shop in Sublette, IL (Vaessen Implement Repair, Inc.) agreed to accept the machine and handle any warranty, parts and repairs.

Model: RM98

Name: Brush Rover

Cutting Width: 38.4"

Cutting Height: 2" - 4.7"

Engine: Vanguard V-twin 21HP

Speeds: Various speed control (HST)

Transmission: OREC Heavy duty HST with differential

Wheel size: Front 16", Rear 17"

Dimensions: 79"L x 42"W x 36"H (ROPS folded)

Weight: 690 lbs.

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