

TESTING EQUIPMENT

Gravely 260HXDZ

When a company has been manufacturing machines for as long as Gravely has, they obviously learn a lot along the way. The new 260HXDZ shows a combination of innovative ideas as well as brute strength to provide a very impressive zero turn mower.

The machine comes with an option of 26, 27 or 31 hp engines. We tested the 31 hp Kawasaki Twin. This provided ample power whilst cutting thick grass on level areas, and it still had plenty of grunt when we attacked the steeper slopes. This power transferred through massive 21 cc pumps and 18 cubic inch wheel motors produced all the power and maneuverability required. With a forward speed of 21 kmph, it makes for effortless and efficient mowing.

I was impressed with the accessibility to parts of the machine for maintenance. Simple ideas such as the engine cover and seat lifting easily together to give access to the engine and hydraulic system was great. In addition, the footrest and grate over the deck being one piece, hinging out the way and providing huge access to the top of the deck was handy. With a simple hook to hold this up, there were no worries about it falling back on you whilst working. The hydraulic deck lift is great, and with the cutting height set, the deck can be lowered and raised effortlessly with one finger.

The ride feels fantastic. The high back seat with adjustable suspension provides a comfortable ride whilst the split flip handles give easy access and are surprisingly light. With the choice of having the front axle fixed or floating, I was eager to try the difference. By removing two bolts from the front axle, they move independently which made for a smoother ride on uneven ground. The removed bolts have keeper holes located on the front so when removed, they are stored on the mower ready to be re-inserted when returning to the fixed position, a process which takes less than a minute. The side chute can also be removed easily and stored on the deck with hardware that is also kept in its place on the machine, making the process easy and fast.

If you're in the market for a zero turn mower, then this is a must to inspect.

