BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Robot Lawn Mowers

Wire-free setup, schedules, safety and theft protection — explained in plain English, one step at a time

A plain-English guide for every household

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For Husqvarna Automower, Segway Navimow & Mammotion · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your guide to robot lawn mowers: the quiet, battery-powered helpers that trim the grass a little every day while you do something else. Read it in any order and at your own pace — there is no test, and you can't fall behind. Models and prices change every year, so this guide teaches you how these mowers work and what to look for, rather than telling you which one to buy.

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PART 1

Getting Started

What a robot lawn mower is, what it can and can't do, and whether your yard is a good fit. Start here.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you've seen a little robot quietly crossing a neighbor's lawn and thought, "Could one of those take the mowing off my hands?" — this guide is for **you**. And if a family member just gave you one and it's still sitting in its box in the garage, this guide is for you too.

I'm Bill. I've spent more than 30 years working with technology, and these days I help folks here in Portage County feel at home with theirs. I wrote this guide the way I'd explain it standing in your yard: slowly, in plain English, and without trying to sell you anything. When I use a word like "RTK" or "no-go zone," I'll stop and explain it right then.

What this guide will do for you

- Explain how robot mowers find their way — with a buried wire, with satellites, or with cameras.
- Help you decide whether your yard suits one, and what they really cost as of November 2026.
- Walk you through placing the charging dock, connecting the app, and drawing your lawn's map.
- Show you how to set a schedule that fits your family, the weather and the wildlife in your yard.
- Cover theft protection: PIN codes, alarms, geofences and GPS tracking.
- Keep you safe: blades, children, pets, and getting the mower ready for an Ohio winter.

The big promise: you can't break it by learning

Most of what you'll do with a robot mower happens in a phone app: drawing a map, setting times, changing the cutting height. All of that can be changed again tomorrow. If you draw a map badly, you erase it and draw it again. The parts that deserve real care — the sharp blades and the outdoor power outlet — I'll mark clearly. I'm a technology helper, not an electrician, and I'll always tell you honestly which job is which.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this matters

A robot mower trims the grass a little at a time, several days a week, so the lawn always looks freshly cut. For anyone who finds pushing or riding a mower harder than it used to be, it can mean one less chore to worry about all summer — and one less reason to ask someone for help.

I'm only a phone call away

If anything in this guide leaves you unsure, call me at **(330) 200-8042**. There's no such thing as a silly question.

Let's start with the simplest question: what exactly is this little machine?

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Robot Lawn Mower Is

A **robot lawn mower** is a small, battery-powered mower that cuts your grass by itself. It lives on a **charging dock** (also called a charging station) at the edge of the lawn. At the times you choose, it drives out, mows, and returns to the dock to recharge — then goes out again until the job is done.

How it's different from the mower in your garage

	Robot mower	Push or riding mower
Who does the work	The robot, on a schedule	You
How often it mows	A little, several days a week	A lot, once a week or so
Clippings	Tiny bits fall back into the lawn	Bagged or left in rows
Noise	Quiet — you can talk next to it	Loud
Fuel	Electricity from the dock	Gas or a large battery
Blades	Small, razor-like blades on a spinning disc	One big blade

The pieces in the box

Piece	What it does
The mower	The robot itself, with wheels, a battery, sensors and a cutting disc underneath.
Charging dock	Where it parks and charges. Plugs into an outdoor outlet through a power supply.
Power supply and cable	A transformer box and a long low-voltage cable between the outlet and the dock.
Boundary wire (some models)	A thin wire you peg around the lawn's edge so the mower knows where to stop.
Antenna or reference station (some models)	A small satellite antenna on a pole or wall that helps a wire-free mower know exactly where it is (Chapter 5).
The app	Free on your phone. It's where you draw the map, set the schedule and turn on theft protection.

GOOD TO KNOW

Pairs with your smart-home guide

Our **Smart Home Installation** guide covers the bigger picture of connected devices at home. This guide goes deep on robot mowers: placing the dock, mapping, schedules, safety and theft protection.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Once you see that a robot mower is just a patient little helper that trims a bit every day, the rest of this guide is about telling it where your lawn is and when it may work.

CHAPTER 3

Is a Robot Mower Right for Your Yard?

Robot mowers are wonderful in some yards and frustrating in others. Before you spend a couple of thousand dollars, take a slow walk around your lawn with this chapter in hand.

Signs it will work well

- **Mostly open lawn**, with good sky overhead, if you're looking at a wire-free model (Chapter 4).
- **Gentle to moderate slopes.** Each model lists a maximum slope (Chapter 16).
- **A spot for the dock** near an outdoor outlet, on level ground at the lawn's edge (Chapter 9).
- **A yard that's usually empty during the day**, or a household happy to keep kids and pets in while it works (Chapter 18).

Signs it may be a struggle

- Lots of **tall trees** covering most of the lawn. Satellite-guided mowers need open sky; a boundary-wire or camera-guided model may suit you better.
- **Very steep banks** or ditches.
- A yard full of **toys, hoses, fallen branches or dog toys** most of the time. Even the smartest mowers do best on a tidy lawn.
- **Gravel paths or loose stone** the mower would have to cross — stones dull blades fast.
- Several **separate lawns** with no path between them. Many mowers can handle this, but you may have to carry the mower or set up extra zones (Chapter 13).

What they cost

Prices vary a lot by brand, yard size and sale. As of November 2026, these are real examples from the makers' own stores and major retailers:

Brand	Price examples, November 2026
Segway Navimow	Small-yard models from roughly $800 to about $1,300; large-yard X4 models listed from about $2,500 to $3,000, often on sale.
Mammotion LUBA 3 AWD	Listed at $2,399 on Mammotion's U.S. store (on sale for $2,099 when checked); the LUBA 3 AWD 3000 listed at $2,799 at Best Buy.

Brand	Price examples, November 2026
Husqvarna Automower	Wide range from basic boundary-wire models to wire-free models. For example, the Automower 410 iQ was listed at $2,599.99 on Husqvarna's U.S. site.

GOOD TO KNOW

Hidden costs to budget for

Replacement blades several times a season, a possible cellular data plan after a free period (Chapter 7), a cover or garage for the mower, and — if you don't already have one — an electrician to add a safe outdoor outlet (Chapter 9).

TIP

Measure first

Every model is rated for a maximum lawn area, in acres or square feet. Use a free online map tool or your county property record to estimate your lawn — not your whole lot — and choose a model rated a little larger than you need.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Ten minutes walking the yard now can save you from buying the wrong kind of mower — or from paying for far more mower than your lawn needs.

PART 2

How Robot Mowers Find Their Way

Boundary wire, satellites and cameras — the three ways a robot mower knows where your lawn ends — plus today's main brands and the cellular plans some of them use.

CHAPTER 4

Boundary Wire or Wire-Free?

Every robot mower needs to know one thing above all: *where does the lawn stop?* There are three main ways makers solve that, and many newer mowers combine two or three of them.

1. The boundary wire

The oldest method. A thin wire is pegged down (or buried an inch or two) all the way around the edge of the lawn and around flower beds. The dock sends a faint signal through the wire, and the mower turns back whenever it senses it. It's proven and works under trees, but laying the wire takes an afternoon, and a spade or an edger can cut it.

2. Satellites with RTK ("wire-free")

Ordinary GPS, like the one in your phone, is only accurate to several feet — not good enough to stop at your flower bed. **RTK** (short for *real-time kinematic*) adds a correction signal from a fixed antenna nearby, so the mower knows where it is to within an inch or so. You draw the lawn's edges in the app, and the mower stays inside those **virtual boundaries**. Husqvarna calls its version **EPOS**; Husqvarna's wire-free Automower family is called **NERA**. Chapter 5 covers the antenna.

3. Cameras and sensors ("vision")

Many newer mowers add cameras — and some add **LiDAR**, a laser scanner that measures distances — to see obstacles, tell grass from pavement, and keep going under trees where satellite signals are weak. Segway's camera system is called **VisionFence**; Mammotion's LUBA 3 AWD combines LiDAR, RTK and AI vision; Husqvarna's 2026 NERA models with a "V" in the name add an AI camera.

	Boundary wire	RTK satellites	Vision / LiDAR
Setup	Lay wire around edges	Place antenna, drive the edges in the app	Often mapped in the app; may need no antenna
Under trees	Works well	Can lose its fix	Helps keep going
Changing the lawn	Move the wire	Redraw in the app	Redraw in the app
Weak spot	Wire breaks	Needs open sky	Needs light; can be fooled

TIP

Which one for you?

Open lawn with big sky: wire-free RTK is easiest to live with. Lots of mature trees: look for a model that adds vision or LiDAR, or consider a boundary wire. A dealer or I can look at your yard with you before you buy.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Understanding how your mower "sees" explains nearly every problem you'll ever have with it — and how to fix it.

CHAPTER 5

The RTK Antenna: Where It Goes

If your mower uses RTK, it comes with — or offers — a small antenna that stays put while the mower moves. Makers call it a **reference station**, **base station** or **RTK antenna**. It listens to the same satellites as the mower and sends it corrections. Where you put it matters more than almost anything else in setup.

What every maker asks for

- **Open sky above it.** No roof overhang, no tree branches over it.
- **Distance from walls, houses, dense trees and fences.**
- **Close enough to power** — most antennas need a plug or a cable to the dock.
- **Within range of the lawn.**
- **Fixed in place.** Once you've mapped, don't move it.

The numbers, by brand

Maker	What their support pages say
Husqvarna EPOS reference station	At least 135 degrees of clear sky above it; mounted high (one Husqvarna article says at least 2 meters, about 6.5 feet); within about 330 feet (100 m) of the mower; on a wall, the top of the station must sit above the wall's top edge.
Segway Navimow antenna	At least 6.6 feet (2 m) from walls, dense trees, houses and fencing, with an unobstructed view of more than 110 degrees of sky. An extension kit (sold separately) lets you mount it on a roof or wall.
Mammotion reference station	In an open area — flat ground, or an unobstructed wall or roof. At least 90 degrees of open sky for both station and mower, and about 10 feet (3 m) from any wall or tree. A wall or roof kit is suggested for U-shaped or separate lawns.

Use the app's signal checker

Most apps can test a spot before you commit. Navimow's app, for example, has a **Satellite Signal Analyzer** under Settings (the exact path varies by model); if it reports enough satellites, the spot is fine. Husqvarna's and Mammotion's apps show a positioning or RTK status during setup. Try two or three spots and pick the best one.

Network RTK: no antenna at all

In some areas, makers offer corrections over the internet instead of from your own antenna. Husqvarna calls it **EPOS via Husqvarna Cloud** (available in select U.S. locations — check the coverage map on Husqvarna's site). Segway offers **Network RTK** for some Navimow models, and Mammotion offers **iNavi NetRTK**. These need a steady internet connection at the mower, by Wi-Fi or cellular.

HEADS UP

Moving it later means a new map

Navimow's manual says that if you move the charging station or the antenna after saving the map, you need to create a new map. The same is true in practice for other brands. Choose carefully the first time.

STAY SAFE

Roof mounting is a ladder job

Several makers allow roof or high wall mounting. Working on a ladder is the most dangerous part of this whole project. If you'd need to climb, ask a younger family member, a handyman, or the dealer — please don't do it alone.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A well-placed antenna is the difference between a mower that keeps a crisp edge for years and one that keeps stopping with "poor positioning" messages.

CHAPTER 6

Today's Main Brands

Many companies make robot mowers. This guide focuses on three that are widely sold in the U.S. and that folks ask me about most. Model names change every year, so use this chapter to understand each family, then check the maker's site for the current lineup.

Husqvarna Automower

The Swedish company that has made robot mowers longest. The lineup includes boundary-wire models and the wire-free **NERA** family, which uses **EPOS** satellite navigation with either a reference station or corrections from the Husqvarna Cloud. For 2026 Husqvarna announced new NERA models with AI vision cameras (the 405VE, 410VE, 430V and 450V). Some NERA models can use either a virtual boundary or a physical wire. The app is **Automower Connect** (some regions now call it Husqvarna Connect). Husqvarna sells through dealers as well as stores, and some models must be installed by a dealer.

Segway Navimow

Segway's mower line. Models use RTK satellites plus the **VisionFence** camera system, and some offer Network RTK so you may not need an antenna. The X3 series reached U.S. stores in 2025 for large yards; at CES in January 2026 Segway announced a new lineup including the i2 AWD for smaller yards and the X4 for large ones. The app is called **Navimow**.

Mammotion LUBA and YUKA

Mammotion's **LUBA** mowers are all-wheel drive and built for big or hilly yards; the **LUBA 3 AWD**, launched at CES 2026, combines LiDAR, RTK and AI vision. The **YUKA** line, including the YUKA mini 2, is aimed at smaller lawns. The app is called **Mammotion**.

	Husqvarna	Segway Navimow	Mammotion
App	Automower Connect	Navimow	Mammotion
Wire-free system	EPOS (NERA models)	RTK + VisionFence	RTK, LiDAR, AI vision
No-antenna option	Husqvarna Cloud (select areas)	Network RTK (some models)	iNavi NetRTK
Where sold	Dealers and stores	Online and stores	Online and stores

TIP

A dealer can be worth it

Buying from a local dealer often means help with installation, winter service and blade supplies. Ask what they include before you compare prices online.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the family names — NERA, EPOS, VisionFence, LUBA — lets you read reviews and product pages without getting lost in jargon.

CHAPTER 7

Cellular Service, 4G and Subscriptions

Some mowers can connect to the cellular network — the same kind your cell phone uses, often called **4G** or **LTE**. That lets the app reach the mower even when your Wi-Fi doesn't stretch to the back of the yard, and it's what powers GPS tracking if the mower is stolen. It may also come with a yearly fee after a free period.

What each maker offers

Maker	Cellular, as of November 2026
Mammotion	Its 4G service applies to the 2026 models (LUBA 3 AWD, LUBA mini 2 AWD and YUKA mini 2) and is linked to the mower by serial number; you can check the status in the app. Mammotion's terms say the LUBA 3 AWD and LUBA mini 2 AWD have a built-in 4G module with three years of data included; the U.S. store describes the LUBA 3 AWD with three years of free service.
Segway Navimow	Some models use the **Navimow Access+** 4G module. Navimow's help center says the X4 (X450 models) includes two years of free 4G data; for smaller models, one year is included in other countries, then a yearly subscription in the app. Navimow warns that the geofence alarm and "Locate My Mower" stop working if the 4G service expires.
Husqvarna	Models with built-in cellular (many X-line models) use it for Automower Connect and GPS tracking. Wi-Fi-only NERA models (such as the 305E, 310E and 320) can add cellular with an Automower Connect accessory kit.

HEADS UP

Ask what it costs after the free years

I couldn't find a confirmed U.S. price for any maker's paid mower data plan when I checked in November 2026. Before you buy, ask the seller — or look in the app's store or service screen — what the plan costs after the free period, and put a reminder on your calendar a month before it ends.

GOOD TO KNOW

Do you need cellular at all?

If your Wi-Fi reaches the whole lawn (Chapter 10), the app will work fine without it. Cellular mainly adds theft tracking and control when Wi-Fi is weak. Many people find that peace of mind worth it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing about the free period up front means no surprise bill — and no surprise that the tracking stopped working just when you needed it.

PART 3

Setting Up

Walking the yard, placing the dock safely near power, getting Wi-Fi out to the lawn, connecting the app, and drawing your map and no-go zones.

CHAPTER 8

Before You Unbox: A Yard Walk

Setup goes smoothly when you've done a little homework first. Give yourself a dry, calm afternoon, and invite a family member if you like — two pairs of eyes help.

Your setup checklist

1. **Mow the lawn the old way first**, short-ish, a day or two before. Most robot mowers aren't meant to cut tall, overgrown grass on day one.
2. **Pick up** sticks, stones, toys, hoses, dog toys and anything else the mower could hit.
3. **Find your outdoor outlet** and check that it's a GFCI outlet in good shape (Chapter 9).
4. **Walk the edges** and note flower beds, ponds, steep spots, tree roots and the edge of the driveway.
5. **Check your Wi-Fi** where the dock will sit: stand there with your phone and open a web page (Chapter 10).
6. **Write down** your Wi-Fi name and password, and have your phone charged.
7. **Download the app** and create your account while you're still indoors and comfortable.

TIP

Charge the mower first

Many makers suggest putting the mower on the dock to charge fully before the first mapping session. Check your quick-start guide — it's usually a single sheet in the box.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

An hour of preparation turns setup into a pleasant afternoon instead of a frustrating one — and keeps the blades away from stones and toys on their very first run.

CHAPTER 9

Placing the Dock and Getting Power

The charging dock is the mower's home. It needs level ground, a way onto the lawn, and power from an outdoor outlet. This is the one part of the setup where I'll be firm about safety.

A good dock spot

- **Flat and level**, right at the lawn's edge, with a few feet of open lawn in front so the mower can drive straight in.
- **Within reach of the power cable** to an outdoor outlet — use the cable that came in the box.
- **Out of puddles** and away from where the sprinkler or the downspout soaks the ground.
- **Open sky** for wire-free models. Husqvarna notes that for EPOS mowers only the docking point — a spot a few feet in front of the charging station — needs a clear view of the sky, not the station itself.
- **Out of view from the street**, if you can manage it. A mower that can't be seen is less tempting to steal (Chapter 21).

The outlet: GFCI and a weatherproof cover

An outdoor outlet should be a **GFCI** outlet — the kind with **TEST** and **RESET** buttons. GFCI stands for *ground-fault circuit interrupter*; it cuts power in a fraction of a second if electricity starts leaking where it shouldn't, such as through water. Outdoors it should also have a **while-in-use cover**, a bubble-shaped cover that closes over the plug while it's plugged in, so rain can't get in.

1. Press the outlet's **TEST** button. A lamp plugged into it should go off.
2. Press **RESET**. The lamp should come back on.
3. If it doesn't trip, won't reset, or has no cover, stop and call an electrician before using it for the mower.

STAY SAFE

No electrical work — call an electrician

If you don't have an outdoor outlet near the lawn, or the one you have is old, cracked or not GFCI, please don't add one yourself and don't run a household extension cord across the yard as a permanent fix. Call a **licensed electrician**. I'm a technology helper, not an electrician, and this is the one job in this guide that belongs to one. I'm glad to help you plan the spot first so the electrician knows exactly where it's needed.

GOOD TO KNOW

The low-voltage cable

The cable between the power supply and the dock usually carries low voltage, and many makers let you pin it along the ground or bury it shallowly. Follow your manual's instructions for your model. Keep the power supply box itself off the ground and out of standing water, as your manual directs.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A safe outlet and a well-chosen dock spot mean you set this up once and never think about it again.

CHAPTER 10

Getting Wi-Fi Out to the Lawn

The app talks to the mower over Bluetooth when you're close, and over Wi-Fi (or cellular) when you're not. Wi-Fi that's strong in your kitchen may be weak at the far end of the lawn.

Check the signal where it matters

1. Stand where the dock will go with your phone, Wi-Fi on and cellular data off.
2. Open a web page or a short video. If it loads quickly, you're in good shape.
3. Walk to the farthest corner of the lawn and try again.

2.4 GHz only

Husqvarna says its Automower models connect on **2.4 GHz Wi-Fi only**; 5 GHz networks aren't supported. Most routers broadcast both, but sometimes 2.4 GHz has to be switched on separately in the router's settings, and any extender or mesh system must support 2.4 GHz too. Many other smart gadgets work the same way, so check your mower's manual. The good news: 2.4 GHz reaches farther outdoors than 5 GHz.

If the signal doesn't reach

- **Move the router** toward the side of the house facing the lawn, if you can.
- **Add a mesh unit** near a window on that side, or an outdoor-rated mesh unit. Our **Wi-Fi to the Garage, Barn or Backyard** guide walks through these options, from simple to more involved.
- **Use cellular** if your mower has it (Chapter 7).

GOOD TO KNOW

What blocks Wi-Fi outdoors

Metal siding, a metal garage door, brick and concrete block, and even a big water heater sitting against an outside wall can weaken Wi-Fi a lot. Wood and glass block it least.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With good Wi-Fi in the yard, you can start, pause or check the mower from your easy chair — or from your grandchild's soccer game.

CHAPTER 11

Connecting the App

Every brand's app is a little different, but the steps follow the same pattern. Do this outdoors, standing next to the mower, with your phone charged and Bluetooth turned on.

The usual steps

1. Install the maker's app from the App Store or Google Play: **Automower Connect** (Husqvarna), **Navimow** (Segway) or **Mammotion**.
2. Create an account with your email and a strong password you don't use anywhere else. Write it on the Cheat-Sheet in Chapter 29.
3. Turn the mower on with its main switch. Most apps ask you to add a device with a **+** sign and may scan a QR code on the mower or in the box.
4. Let the phone connect to the mower by **Bluetooth**. You'll often be asked for the mower's **PIN** — the code from the box or one you set (Chapter 21).
5. When asked, choose your home Wi-Fi (the 2.4 GHz network if your router shows two) and type the password.
6. Allow notifications when your phone asks. That's how theft alarms and "stuck" messages reach you.
7. Let the app check for a firmware update and install it before you map (Chapter 23).

GOOD TO KNOW

Husqvarna's order of steps

Husqvarna's own instructions say to pair your phone with the mower by Bluetooth, install Automower Connect and log in, have your Wi-Fi password ready, and keep the mower near the router during Wi-Fi setup. Bluetooth reaches roughly 30 meters (about 98 feet).

SCAM ALERT

Only download the real app

Get the app from the link in your quick-start guide or by searching the maker's exact name in the App Store or Google Play. Never install an app or call a "support" number from an ad or a pop-up. Real makers don't ask for payment by gift card.

TIP

Share with a family member

If someone else in the family will help look after the mower, check whether your app lets you share access rather than sharing your password. If it doesn't, keep the password in one safe place you both know.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Once the app is connected, nearly everything else — maps, schedules, alarms, updates — happens from your phone.

CHAPTER 12

Mapping Your Lawn

With a wire-free mower, you show it the edges of the lawn once, and it remembers them. Most apps have you **drive the mower around the edge** using on-screen joystick controls, like steering a remote-control car. Some newer vision mowers can explore the edges more on their own. Your app will guide you step by step.

How mapping usually goes

1. Wait until the app shows a good positioning signal. Navimow and Mammotion show an RTK or positioning status; a "fixed" or strong signal is what you want.
2. Start at the dock, as the app directs, and choose **create map** or similar.
3. Drive slowly around the outside edge of the lawn, a few inches in from flower beds and fences. Walk beside the mower and take your time — you can pause.
4. Finish back where you started so the app can close the loop.
5. Save the map. Then add no-go zones and paths (Chapter 13).
6. Watch the first mow from a chair nearby. Fix any spot where it gets too close to something.

TIP

Go slow at corners

Tight corners and the edges of beds come out best when you drive slowly and squarely. If you make a mess of a section, most apps let you undo or redo it.

HEADS UP

Don't move the dock or antenna afterward

Navimow's manual says moving the charging station or antenna after saving means making a new map. Settle on their spots before you start mapping.

GOOD TO KNOW

Boundary-wire models

If your mower uses a boundary wire, "mapping" means laying the wire instead. Many dealers install it for you, and Husqvarna requires dealer installation for some models. Your manual shows how far from edges and beds the wire should sit.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A careful first map means neat edges, no mower wandering into the flower bed, and far fewer "stuck" messages.

CHAPTER 13

No-Go Zones, Paths and Multiple Lawns

A **no-go zone** (also called an exclusion zone or forbidden area) is a spot inside your lawn that the mower must avoid: a flower bed in the middle of the grass, a pond, a vegetable garden, a play set, the dog's favorite corner.

Adding a no-go zone

1. Open the map in the app.
2. Choose to add a no-go zone, exclusion zone or similar.
3. Either drive the mower around it, as you did for the edge, or draw it on the screen — your app will offer one or both.
4. Leave a little margin around anything fragile.
5. Save, and watch the next mow near that spot.

Paths between lawns

If you have a front and back lawn joined by a strip of grass or a sidewalk, most wire-free mowers let you create a **channel** or **path** between zones. Keep paths over smooth surfaces. Gravel and loose stone chew up blades and wheels.

Things worth a no-go zone

- Ponds, pools and steep drop-offs.
- Exposed tree roots, sprinkler heads and outdoor lighting.
- Children's play areas and sandboxes.
- Spots where ground-nesting animals return each spring (Chapter 19).
- Soft, wet patches the mower always gets stuck in.

TIP

Temporary zones

Planning a party or reseeding a patch? Some apps let you pause one zone or add a temporary no-go area. Or simply skip that day's schedule.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

No-go zones let the mower work around your garden instead of you working around the mower.

PART 4

Everyday Mowing

Setting a schedule that suits your family, handling rain and frost, slopes and edges, and the cutting height that keeps the lawn healthy.

CHAPTER 14

Setting a Mowing Schedule

A robot mower works best little and often. Instead of one big weekly mow, it trims a bit on several days, so the clippings are tiny and disappear into the lawn. The schedule tells it which days and hours it's allowed out.

A good starting schedule

- **Daytime hours only** — mid-morning to late afternoon, when the dew has dried and it's light out. Chapter 19 explains why not at night.
- **Hours when the yard is usually empty** — for example, while the grandkids are at school, and not when the dog is out (Chapter 18).
- **Several days a week** in spring and early summer when grass grows fast; fewer in a hot, dry August.
- **A day off** for the day the lawn service treats the grass, or when you usually have people over.

Setting it in the Navimow app

Navimow's own instructions: scheduled mowing is **off by default**. Open the app, tap the menu icon (three lines) in the top left, tap **Mowing Schedule**, turn on scheduled mowing, then choose the days, zones and time period and tap **Confirm**. Navimow also notes that night mowing is off by default, and that a manual "mow now" task takes priority over the schedule.

Husqvarna and Mammotion

In Automower Connect and the Mammotion app, the schedule lives in the mower's settings or a schedule or task screen. You pick days and time windows the same way. The exact names change with app updates, so look for **Schedule**, **Timer** or **Task**.

HEADS UP

Mower not following the schedule?

Navimow says a common cause is the wrong **time zone** in the app, which shifts every mow by hours. Check it if the mower goes out at odd times. Also check that the schedule is actually switched on.

TIP

Start with more hours, then trim

In the first couple of weeks, give it generous hours so it can catch up. Once the lawn looks even, cut the hours back. Less time on the lawn means less wear on blades and wheels.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Set the schedule once, and the lawn looks freshly mowed every day of the season without you lifting a finger — and only at times that suit your household.

CHAPTER 15

Rain, Frost and the Weather

Robot mowers are built to be left outdoors and can handle a shower. But mowing soaked grass leaves ruts, clumps and muddy wheels, so most mowers can wait out the rain.

How mowers decide

- **A rain sensor** on top of the mower notices water and sends it home or keeps it in the dock.
- **Online weather** — some apps check the forecast and delay the schedule.
- **A rain delay** you set — how long to wait after the rain stops before heading out again.

Navimow's weather settings

Navimow's help center says its mowers can adjust the schedule based on the weather, and you can customize the rain delay in the app up to a maximum of **12 hours**. On the H2, for example, the settings are under **Settings** > **Weather adaptive** > **Rain**, and you can choose to rely only on the mower's own rain sensor instead of online weather.

Ohio weather notes

- **Spring** is soggy. Give the lawn a longer rain delay so the mower doesn't rut soft ground.
- **Thunderstorms**: most makers suggest bringing the mower in, or at least keeping it parked, when lightning is around. Check your manual's advice on unplugging the power supply during storms.
- **Frost**: walking or driving on frosty grass damages it. Skip early-morning mows in late fall.
- **Heat and drought**: grass grows slowly in August. Cut the hours back so the mower isn't wearing thin grass.

TIP

Pause from the app

Expecting a big storm or a soggy week? Most apps have a simple **Park**, **Pause** or **Stop schedule** button. One tap, and the mower stays home until you say so.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Good weather settings protect both your lawn and the mower, and you don't have to watch the sky.

CHAPTER 16

Slopes, Edges and Tricky Spots

Hills are where robot mowers differ most. Every model lists a maximum slope, and it's worth understanding what that number means before you buy.

Percent versus degrees

Slopes are usually given in **percent**: how many feet the ground rises for every 100 feet you walk across. A 45 percent slope rises 45 feet over 100 feet — about 24 degrees. A 100 percent slope is 45 degrees, steeper than most stairs. Makers often give both numbers.

Model	Maximum slope listed by the maker
Mammotion LUBA 3 AWD	Up to 80 percent (about 38.6 degrees), per Mammotion.
Segway Navimow X4	Up to 84 percent (about 40 degrees), per Navimow.
Segway Navimow i2 AWD	45 percent (about 24 degrees), per Navimow.
Husqvarna	Varies widely by model; all-wheel-drive models handle the steepest ground. Check the spec sheet for yours.

HEADS UP

The maximum isn't the comfortable number

A mower rated for a slope can climb it in good conditions: dry grass, firm soil. Wet grass, soft spots and side-slopes are harder. If your bank is near the limit, choose a model rated well above it, or give that bank a no-go zone.

Edges

Robot mowers usually leave a narrow strip along fences and walls, because the blades sit inside the body. Many have an edge-cutting mode, and laying the lawn edge flush with a patio or a mowing strip helps. You may still want a quick pass with a string trimmer now and then.

Other tricky spots

- **Holes and ruts**: fill them; wheels catch in them.
- **Exposed roots**: mark them as no-go or cover them with soil.
- **Narrow passages**: check your model's minimum width for paths between zones.

- **Curbs and steps**: set the boundary a few inches back.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Matching the mower to your hills avoids the most common disappointment: a mower that keeps getting stuck on the one slope you most wanted it to handle.

CHAPTER 17

Cutting Height and a Healthy Lawn

Because it trims a little every day, a robot mower can keep the lawn at a steady height. The cutting height is usually set in the app; some models have a dial on the mower.

Getting the height right

1. Start the season **a little higher** than you think, then lower it gradually over a few weeks.
2. Change the height in small steps. A big drop all at once stresses the grass.
3. Raise it again in hot, dry weather. Taller grass shades its own roots.
4. In fall, keep mowing at a moderate height until growth stops.

What about the clippings?

The clippings are so small that they fall down between the blades of grass and break down quickly. There's no bag to empty, and you're returning nutrients to the lawn as you go.

Leaves, fertilizer and lawn treatments

- Rake or blow heavy fall leaves off before mowing; a thick layer can confuse sensors and clog the mower.
- When the lawn is treated or fertilized, follow the product's instructions on when it's safe to walk or mow, and pause the schedule until then.
- Husqvarna notes that some fertilizers and sandy soil wear blades faster (Chapter 20).

TIP

Tell the lawn service

If someone treats or aerates your lawn, let them know about the robot and agree on a day to pause it. Ask them to watch for the boundary wire or antenna, too.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A steady height and tiny clippings can give you one of the neatest lawns on the street, with no bagging and no raking of clippings.

PART 5

Safety: Blades, Kids, Pets and Wildlife

Robot mowers are quiet and slow, but their blades are razor-sharp. How to keep children, pets, visitors and the animals in your yard safe, and how to change blades without cutting yourself.

CHAPTER 18

Children, Pets and Visitors

Robot mowers have sensors that stop the blades when the mower is lifted or tipped and that turn it away when it bumps into something. That's good — but it isn't a reason to let a child or a pet near it while it works.

What the manuals say

Husqvarna's operator manuals are plain about it: never use the mower when people — especially children — or pets are in the cutting area. Use the **Park** function or switch the mower off when people or pets are in the area. Children must not play with the mower, and some manuals add that children under 8 should not be in the work area while it runs. If the mower is used where the public can walk, warning signs are required.

House rules that work

- **Schedule it for when the yard is empty** — and keep that schedule up to date when the grandkids visit for the summer.
- **Teach the kids:** the mower is not a toy and not something to ride, chase or pick up. If they want to see it, an adult presses **STOP** first.
- **Pets inside** while it mows. Dogs may chase it or lie in its path; cats may nap in the grass.
- **Tell visitors and workers** — the lawn service, a contractor, the neighbor kids fetching a ball.
- **Park it** during a cookout or a backyard party.

The big STOP button

Every robot mower has a large **STOP** button on top. Pressing it stops the blades and wheels at once. Make sure everyone in the house knows where it is. On many models, pressing STOP also starts a countdown for the PIN code (Chapter 21) — that's normal.

STAY SAFE

Never lift it by hand while it's running

Press STOP and wait for the blades to stop spinning before you pick the mower up or tip it. Carry it by the handle, with the blades pointing away from your body.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A few simple house rules let you enjoy a robot mower with grandchildren and pets in the family, worry-free.

CHAPTER 19

Wildlife and Why Not to Mow at Night

Some owners set their mowers to run at night so the yard is free during the day. I'd gently steer you away from that, for the sake of the animals that share your yard.

What researchers have found

Researchers in Europe, including teams at the University of Oxford and Germany's Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, have studied how robot mowers injure small animals. They found that many mowers can't detect a small animal until they physically touch it, and that mowing at night — when many small animals are out — raises the risk. Their advice is simple: don't run robot mowers from dusk to dawn.

Husqvarna's own safety Q&A agrees: where your garden attracts small animals, schedule the mower for daytime only. Some newer models also have features that keep the mower parked overnight.

In an Ohio yard

- **Rabbits** often hide their nests of babies in a shallow dip in the lawn in spring and summer. A quick walk before the season's first mows, and a no-go zone around any nest you find, can save a litter.
- **Box turtles, toads and frogs** wander lawns, especially after rain. A longer rain delay helps.
- **Fawns** are sometimes left lying still in tall grass at the edge of a yard.
- **Birds** feeding on the lawn usually move off; ground-nesting birds may not.

Wildlife-friendly settings

1. Set the schedule to **daytime hours** only — mid-morning to late afternoon (Chapter 14).
2. Turn **night mowing off** if your app has it. Navimow says it's off by default.
3. Add a longer **rain delay** in wet spells, when toads and turtles are out.
4. Walk the yard before the first mows each spring, and add no-go zones where you find nests.
5. Leave a strip of taller grass or a wildflower corner as a no-go zone. It's good for pollinators, too.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With a daytime schedule, your lawn gets mowed and the rabbits, toads and turtles in your yard get a fair chance to get out of the way.

CHAPTER 20

Checking and Changing Blades Safely

Most robot mowers use small, razor-like blades that hang loosely on a spinning disc. Because they're small and swing back when they hit something, they're cheap and quick to replace — and they need replacing often.

How often

Husqvarna says its main disc blades typically last about **3 to 6 weeks** under normal conditions, and its EdgeCut blades about 9 to 12 weeks. Sandy soil, some fertilizers, and hitting toys, stones, twigs and roots wear them faster. Spring grass is sappy and builds up on blades, so check more often then. Other brands give their own intervals — check your manual, and the app, which often tracks blade time.

Changing blades on a Husqvarna Automower

1. Turn the **main switch off** and put on **protective gloves**.
2. Turn the mower upside down on a towel or soft mat.
3. Turn the skid plate until its hole lines up with a blade screw.
4. Unscrew the blade with the right screwdriver (a magnetic one helps).
5. Fit the new blade with a **new screw**. Husqvarna says to replace the screws every time — reused screws can let blades come loose.
6. Use one blade per screw, and only the maker's blades and screws.
7. Check that each blade **swings freely**. That's on purpose: it lets a blade swing away when it hits something.
8. In Automower Connect, reset the blade timer under **Statistics** > **Blade usage**.

Other brands

Navimow and Mammotion mowers also use replaceable blades, with their own screws and steps. The pattern is the same: power off, gloves on, mower on its back on something soft, replace all blades and screws as a set, and reset any counter in the app. Your manual has the pictures.

STAY SAFE

Gloves, always

Even worn robot mower blades are sharp. Power off with the main switch — not just STOP — and wear gloves every time you touch the underside. Keep children away while you work.

SCAM ALERT

Watch for fake parts stores

Blades are cheap and sold everywhere, including by sellers who copy a maker's look. Buy from the maker's site, your dealer, or a store you already trust. A site with prices far below everyone else's, payment only by wire or gift card, or no real contact details is a warning sign.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Sharp blades give a clean cut, a greener lawn and longer battery life. Ten minutes every month or so keeps the mower working at its best.

PART 6

Theft Protection and Keeping It Running

PIN codes, alarms, geofences and GPS tracking; what to do if the mower goes missing; firmware updates; and fixes for the most common problems.

CHAPTER 21

PIN Codes, Alarms and Geofences

A robot mower sits outdoors, unattended, and often costs a couple of thousand dollars. Makers know that, so most include several layers of theft protection. Turning them on takes ten minutes.

The layers

Protection	What it does
PIN code	A short number code. Without it, a thief can't use or reset the mower.
Lift alarm	A loud alarm if someone picks the mower up.
Geofence	An invisible circle around your property. If the mower leaves it, the alarm sounds and the app alerts you.
Account lock	The mower is tied to your account, so it can't simply be added to someone else's app.
GPS tracking	Shows where the mower is on a map — usually needs cellular service (Chapter 7).

Husqvarna Automower

Husqvarna says the alarm sounds if the PIN isn't entered within **30 seconds** of pressing STOP, or immediately if the mower is lifted. Entering the correct PIN turns the alarm off. Some models can also ask for the four-digit PIN at an interval you choose. With GPS (built in on X-line models, an accessory on most others), you can set a **GeoFence** in the app; if the mower leaves it, the alarm keeps sounding until the PIN is entered.

To change the GeoFence, Husqvarna says you need a Bluetooth connection: go to **Settings** > **Security**, enter your PIN, choose **GeoFence**, set the radius with the slider, and tap **Save**. Turn GeoFence off before you deliberately take the mower off the property — for example, to the dealer.

Segway Navimow

Navimow says the alarm sounds the moment a thief lifts the mower and won't stop until the PIN is entered on the mower; you can check its location in the app. If it leaves the area you've set, it sounds an alarm and sends a notification. Tracking needs the 4G service — Navimow warns the geofence alarm and locate feature stop working if that service expires.

Mammotion LUBA and YUKA

Mammotion describes a geofence that alerts you if the mower leaves its zone, GPS tracking on cellular models, and account binding that ties the mower to your account. It recommends turning on **all** security notifications in the app. Look in the mower's settings for the anti-theft or security section.

Set it up today

1. Change the PIN from the factory code to one you'll remember but others won't guess — not 1234, not your birthday or street number.
2. Write the PIN on the Cheat-Sheet in Chapter 29 and keep it indoors.
3. Turn on the lift alarm and the geofence if your model has them.
4. Allow notifications from the app on your phone.
5. Write down the mower's **serial number** and take a photo of the label. You'll need it for the police and your insurance if the worst happens.

TIP

Simple, low-tech help

Place the dock out of view from the street if you can, and store the mower in the garage during long trips. A motion light or an outdoor camera pointed at the dock is a good deterrent too.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A mower with a PIN, alarm and geofence is close to useless to a thief — and with tracking, you have a real chance of getting it back.

CHAPTER 22

If the Mower Goes Missing

First, don't panic: a mower that's "missing" is far more often stuck behind a shed or under a bush than stolen. Check the app's map and the yard before anything else.

If it's really gone

1. Open the app and check the mower's **location**, if your model has GPS tracking.
2. **Don't go after it yourself.** Never confront anyone over a lawn mower.
3. Call the police non-emergency number, or 911 if a crime is happening right now. Give them the serial number, the brand and model, and the location from the app.
4. Take screenshots of the location history in the app.
5. Contact the maker's support. Ask whether they can flag the serial number.
6. Call your homeowner's insurance company. Ask what they need from you.

HEADS UP

Selling or giving away your mower

Before you sell or give a mower away, remove it from your account in the app (often under device settings, **remove** or **unbind**), and tell the new owner the PIN or reset it as your manual describes. Otherwise the new owner may not be able to use it. If you buy used, make sure the seller does this in front of you.

SCAM ALERT

"We found your mower" messages

If someone texts or emails claiming to have found your mower and asks for a fee, a gift card, or your account password, it's a scam. Work only through the police, your insurance company and the maker's real support. You can report scams at **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the steps ahead of time means you act quickly and safely, with the right information in hand.

CHAPTER 23

Firmware and App Updates

Firmware is the mower's own built-in software. Makers update it to fix problems, improve navigation and add features. The app on your phone gets its own updates, too.

Keeping both up to date

1. Let your phone update apps automatically, or check the App Store or Google Play once a month.
2. Open the mower's app and look for a firmware or software update notice, usually in the mower's settings.
3. Update with the mower **on the dock**, charged, and within good Wi-Fi or Bluetooth range.
4. Don't switch it off or move it until the app says the update is finished. It may take a while.

GOOD TO KNOW

App first, then the mower

Mammotion's release notes advise updating the app before the device firmware, and Mammotion publishes a release log of firmware changes on its support site. That's a good habit with any brand.

TIP

Not in the middle of a mow

Plan updates for an evening or a rainy day, when the mower would be on the dock anyway.

HEADS UP

How long will it be supported?

Smart gadgets only stay safe while the maker keeps sending updates. Mammotion publishes a product security update support page listing how long its products are supported. When you shop, it's fair to ask any maker the same question.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Updates often fix exactly the "lost signal" or "won't return to dock" problems that bother owners — for free, overnight.

CHAPTER 24

When Something's Wrong: Common Fixes

Most robot mower problems have simple causes. Start with the message in the app — it usually tells you exactly what the mower thinks is wrong.

Problem	Try this first
Stuck or trapped	Press STOP, move it to open grass, clear the obstacle, and add a no-go zone if it keeps happening there (Chapter 13).
"Poor positioning" or lost signal	Check the antenna is clean, upright and powered; trim branches over it; consider a better spot (Chapter 5).
Won't connect to the app	Stand near the mower with Bluetooth on; check Wi-Fi is 2.4 GHz; restart the router and the app (Chapter 10).
Doesn't follow the schedule	Check the schedule is switched on, the time zone is right, and no rain delay is active (Chapter 14, Chapter 15).
Won't charge or return home	Clean the charging contacts on the mower and dock; check the dock didn't move; check the GFCI outlet hasn't tripped (Chapter 9).
Patchy or ragged cut	Replace blades and screws; clear grass from under the deck (Chapter 20).
Alarm going off	Enter your PIN on the mower or in the app. If you moved the mower, turn the geofence off first (Chapter 21).
Boundary wire signal lost	Look for a cut wire, often near where someone dug or edged. The dock's light usually shows it. A dealer can find and repair breaks.

When the GFCI outlet trips

If the dock has no power, check the GFCI outlet. Press **RESET** once. If it trips again right away or won't reset, leave it off and call an electrician — it's telling you something's wrong.

TIP

Clean it

Many "mystery" problems disappear after a gentle cleaning: brush grass off the wheels, underside and charging contacts with a soft brush. Check your manual before using a hose or pressure washer on any part of it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Most fixes take five minutes in the yard. You'll only need help for the rare ones.

PART 7

Through the Seasons

Putting the mower away for an Ohio winter, waking it up in spring, and buying and selling safely.

CHAPTER 25

Ohio Winter Storage

Here in Portage County the mowing season ends somewhere around late October or November, depending on the year. Robot mowers shouldn't sit out through snow, ice and freezing cold, and their batteries last longer when stored well.

Husqvarna's winter steps

1. **Clean** the mower: brush grass and dirt from the body, wheels and underside. Husqvarna recommends a yearly service that includes cleaning, because dirty mowers wear faster in cold, damp storage.
2. **Charge it fully**, then **switch it off** with the main switch.
3. **Store it indoors**, somewhere dry and above freezing, resting on all its wheels on level ground — or on Husqvarna's wall hanger.
4. **Bring the charging station in** if you can. On NERA models only the top part needs to come inside. If the station stays outside, Husqvarna says to keep it plugged in with its wires connected.
5. **Leave the boundary wire** in the ground. It can stay out all winter.
6. Taking it to a dealer for winter service? **Turn the GeoFence off** first, or the alarm will sound on the way.

Any brand

- Follow your maker's winter instructions — most match Husqvarna's: clean, charge, switch off, store dry and above freezing.
- Ask whether to bring in the RTK antenna and the power supply, and how to protect any cable left outside.
- Pause or turn off the schedule in the app so it doesn't try to mow on a warm January day.
- Note the date on your calendar to check the battery charge partway through winter if your manual suggests it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Dealer winter service

Many dealers offer winter storage and service: cleaning, new blades, a software update and a check-up, sometimes storing the mower in a heated space. Some Husqvarna service contracts include it. Ask your dealer what it costs.

TIP

An unheated garage?

Ohio garages can drop well below freezing. If yours does, a basement, a heated garage or a utility room is a better home for the mower over winter. Keep it off a damp concrete floor if your manual suggests.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Twenty minutes in November protects the battery — the most expensive part — and means the mower is ready to go on the first warm spring day.

CHAPTER 26

Spring Startup

When the grass starts growing again — usually April in Northeast Ohio — it's time to wake the mower up.

Your spring checklist

1. **Walk the yard.** Pick up branches and stones left by winter. Look for rabbit nests (Chapter 19).
2. **Mow once the old way** if the grass is already long.
3. **Put the dock back** exactly where it was, so your map still lines up. Test the GFCI outlet (Chapter 9).
4. **Fit new blades and screws** (Chapter 20).
5. **Charge** the mower fully on the dock.
6. **Update** the app and firmware (Chapter 23).
7. **Check the map** and no-go zones. Add any new garden beds.
8. **Turn the schedule back on** — daytime hours only — and add a generous rain delay for soggy spring ground.
9. **Turn theft protection back on**, including the geofence if you switched it off.

HEADS UP

Check for winter damage

Look for chewed or cut cables, a cracked dock, and a loose or tilted antenna. Frost can heave the ground and shift things a little. Fix any damage before the first mow.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A tidy spring start gives you a summer of hands-off mowing, with no surprises on the first warm weekend.

CHAPTER 27

Buying, Selling and Avoiding Scams

Robot mowers are expensive enough to attract scammers. A few simple rules protect you whether you're buying, selling or just looking for help.

Fake stores and "too good to be true" deals

- Ads on social media for a famous-brand mower at 70, 80 or 90 percent off are almost always fake stores.
- Look for the warning signs: a web address that's slightly off, no phone number, payment only by wire, Zelle, cryptocurrency or gift card, and reviews that all sound the same.
- Buy from the maker's own site, a local dealer, or a major store you already know.
- Pay with a credit card, which gives you the most protection if something goes wrong.

Fake support

- Get support phone numbers and websites from the maker's site or your manual — not from an ad or a search result you're not sure about.
- Real support will never ask for a gift card, or for remote control of your computer out of the blue.
- Never share your app password or one-time codes with anyone who contacts you.

Buying used

1. Ask the seller to remove the mower from their account while you watch, and to give you the PIN or reset it.
2. Check the serial number matches the paperwork.
3. Ask what's included: the dock, power supply, antenna, cables and any boundary wire.
4. Check whether any cellular plan has been used up, and what it will cost to restart (Chapter 7).
5. Ask how old the battery is.

SCAM ALERT

Gift cards are always a scam

No legitimate store, maker, or support line asks to be paid with gift cards. If anyone does, stop. Hang up. Report it at **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**, and call a family member or me before doing anything else.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

These few habits protect your money and your account, and they apply to every gadget you'll ever buy online.

PART 8

When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

An honest word about when a hand is worth it, and a one-page summary to keep with your mower's paperwork.

CHAPTER 28

When to Call Bill

I've written this guide so you can choose, set up and live with a robot mower on your own. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves time, worry or money. Here's my straight advice, with no pressure.

Times it's well worth a call

- **Before you buy** — walking your yard together to decide between boundary wire, RTK and vision, and what size and slope rating you need (Chapter 3 and Chapter 4).
- **Choosing the antenna and dock spots** and testing the signal before anything is fixed in place (Chapter 5 and Chapter 9).
- **Getting Wi-Fi out to the lawn** — checking the signal and setting up mesh or outdoor Wi-Fi (Chapter 10).
- **Connecting the app**, mapping the lawn and adding no-go zones (Chapter 11 through Chapter 13).
- **Turning on theft protection**: PIN, alarm, geofence and notifications (Chapter 21).
- **Checking a deal or a message** that seems too good to be true, before you pay (Chapter 27).
- **You'd simply rather have a patient person handle it.** That's always a good enough reason.

What I don't do

I don't do electrical wiring. A new outdoor outlet, replacing a GFCI, or running power out to the lawn belongs to a **licensed electrician** (Chapter 9). I also don't climb onto roofs. I'm happy to help you plan exactly where things should go, so the electrician or the dealer can do their part quickly, and to set up the technology side afterward.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace — no rushing, no talking down, no jargon. I explain what I'm doing in plain words, and I'll always tell you honestly when something isn't worth the money. Home visits are here in Portage County, Ohio; remote help reaches you wherever you are. I've been doing this work for more than 30 years.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call **(330) 200-8042**, or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. My help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. This guide is free to read and share with family and neighbors.

GOOD TO KNOW

You may be greeted by Sophie

When you call or visit billshometech.com, you might first meet **Sophie**, my AI receptionist. She can answer quick questions and help you book a time. The actual help always comes from me.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about your mower. Enjoy the extra free time this summer — you've earned it.

— Bill

CHAPTER 29

Your Robot Mower Cheat-Sheet

Keep a copy of this with your mower's paperwork, indoors. The whole guide, boiled down.

The essentials

Remember	
Boundary wire	A wire around the edge. Works under trees; can be cut by a spade.
RTK / EPOS	Satellites plus a nearby antenna or online corrections. Needs open sky.
Vision / LiDAR	Cameras or lasers that see obstacles and help under trees.
Antenna	Open sky, away from walls and trees. Don't move it after mapping.
Dock	Level ground at the lawn's edge. GFCI outdoor outlet with a weatherproof cover.
Electrical work	Only a **licensed electrician**. No DIY outlets.
Wi-Fi	Many mowers use 2.4 GHz only. Test the signal at the dock.
Schedule	Daytime only. Yard empty of kids and pets. No night mowing.
Blades	Main switch off, gloves on. New screws every time.
Theft	Change the PIN; turn on alarm, geofence and notifications.
Winter	Clean, charge fully, switch off, store dry and above freezing.

Write it down once

Keep handy	
Brand and model	_____
Serial number	_____
Mower PIN code	_____
App name and account email	_____
Wi-Fi name (2.4 GHz)	_____
Date purchased / where	_____
Cellular plan: free until	_____
Blade size / last changed	_____ / _____
Dealer (name and phone)	_____
Maker's support (phone or website)	_____
Electrician (name and phone)	_____
Police non-emergency number	_____

When something's wrong, in order

1. Read the message in the app. It usually says exactly what's wrong.
2. Stuck: press STOP, move it to open grass, clear the obstacle, add a no-go zone (Chapter 13).
3. Alarm sounding: enter your PIN. Turn the geofence off before moving it on purpose (Chapter 21).
4. Poor positioning: check the antenna is clean, upright and powered, with open sky (Chapter 5).
5. No power at the dock: press RESET on the GFCI outlet once. If it trips again, call an electrician (Chapter 9).
6. App won't connect: stand close with Bluetooth on; check 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi (Chapter 10).
7. Ragged cut: new blades and screws (Chapter 20).
8. Missing: check the app's map, then call the police with the serial number (Chapter 22).
9. Still stuck: call Bill at **(330) 200-8042**.