

**Go green in your garden:
VIKING garden shredders.**





VIKING garden shredders – Performance in practice.

The garden should be a source of pride and an oasis of relaxation. It is also a piece of nature that needs to be cared for and managed effectively. This can be a fulfilling task for many amateur gardeners, when reliable tools are available to make gardening easier – such as a practical garden shredder.

Garden shredders are incredibly useful machines for several reasons: They **tidy up** waste such as lawn, tree and hedge cuttings, leaves and withered flowers. A shredder **creates space** and relieves you of bulky branches, bushy twigs and plant trimmings produced

throughout each year. In the process, shredders significantly **reduce the volume** of the cuttings. These can then be more easily disposed of, or used as the basis for mulch or compost.

In addition, a garden shredder **provides valuable raw material**: The composted shredded material contains exactly the right balance of nutrients that your garden plants need in order to flourish. To aid this, the shredder's blade systems shred the plant trimmings so finely that they quickly decompose to form high quality fertiliser.

	Page
Volume reduction	4
Cost saving	5
A tidy garden	6
Natural protection and fertiliser	7
Produce your own fertiliser	8–9
Correct composting	10–12
Shredding throughout the year	13
Benefits all-round	14
Safety	15
Garden shredder range	16–18
Summary	19

Create space and order in your garden.

Garden shredders create space. They convert large volumes of tree and shrub cuttings, as well as other plant trimmings, into fine shredded material. This can then be used as ground covering material or as compost to form fertiliser and humus. The shredded

plant trimmings can be composted in a dedicated bin or composter and different types of material can also be mixed in. By shredding material first, the creation of compost is quickened as the material has already begun to be broken down before inclusion.



The shredder benefit: reduce the volume of your plant trimmings by an average of 75%.



The amount of garden waste is, of course, heavily dependent on the size and the planting design of your garden. In a garden of average planting with an area of 1000 m², approx. 125 m³ of clippings and plant trimmings are generated each year. This volume can be greatly reduced using a suitable garden shredder.



Save money with your shredder.

As a garden owner, you will need to find a way of disposing of your cuttings and clippings. If you choose the composting route, you will return valuable nutrients to your garden. By doing this, you will no longer need to buy expensive fertiliser.

The alternative to composting is disposal of your clippings in a green waste bin. You'll also benefit from the use of a shredder, because it reduces the volume of the garden waste by an average of 75%. In this way, you save space in your green waste bin, and therefore money too.

Retain a tidy garden.

As a gardener, you'll love seeing your plants flourish. But it can sometimes become too much of a good thing. The cherry tree grows too far into the neighbouring property, the fir tree takes up too much space and a creeper may overgrow your pergola.

In such cases, a shredder can quickly remedy the situation. Simply cut back the plants, shred the tree and shrub cuttings, compost it – and relax. Your garden is neat and tidy in no time at all.

A shredder can always help to provide order in your garden. Make use of this easy and practical option to dispose of withered summer flowers, sprawling hedge cuttings, undesirable branches or leaves on the lawn. You can also use your garden shredder to reduce flower and vegetable cuttings too. Take advantage and shred unsightly plant trimmings immediately using the garden shredder.

Helpful tip: Use the shredded material to cover the areas under trees and shrubs. This not only prevents the spread of undergrowth, **but also gives the garden a cleaner and tidier appearance.**



Advantages:

- Shredded material is converted into valuable natural fertiliser
- Vital nutrients are returned to the garden and the plants
- Cost savings are achieved by no longer requiring artificial fertilisers
- You create space and order in your garden

What can be shredded?

In principle, VIKING garden shredders can process almost everything that your garden produces in terms of waste. The main distinction is made between hard and soft material. Hard materials include branches, twigs and hedge cuttings, whereas soft materials are flower cuttings, vegetable and fruit residues as well as leaves, for example. Normally a mixed form of shredding material is produced in the garden.



Natural protection and fertiliser for the soil.

In the countryside, dead plant material – such as leaves – **provides natural protection and fertiliser for the soil.** You can also mirror this principle and spread your shredded material on the ground in a thin layer.

As a result, this natural covering layer will protect the garden soil under all weather conditions. It prevents washing out due to rain and it acts as an insulator against heat and frost. **Approximately a third less water evaporates** from covered soil than from unprotected ground. In addition, the soil structure is sustainably improved. Micro-organisms break down the plant trimmings slowly, creating new humus and nutrients. Weed seeds cannot germinate, as no light can penetrate through to them, and ornamental plants are protected against disease and pests.

Note: Lawn clippings mixed with shredded branch material is the ideal mix for mulching material.

Ensure that the lawn clippings are spread out loosely for pre-drying, because fresh, wet grass sticks together and prevents the soil from breathing.



Re-using the natural shredded material you produce provides instant rejuvenation for your garden.

You'll be surprised at how quiet our shredders are.

By visiting our VIKING Approved Dealer you can find out for yourself just how quiet the latest generation of garden shredders is. Your good relationship with the neighbours shouldn't be threatened because of noisy shredding activity.



Produce your own fertiliser.

Compost made from shredded plant trimmings is the world's oldest and most natural form of fertiliser.

Compost returns the consumed nutrients and trace elements to the soil, and revitalises soil life as no other fertiliser can. This is hardly surprising as a handful of compost contains approximately ten billion organisms.

Compost therefore significantly improves soil conditions. The result: Plants become more resistant to pests and growth is accelerated. For this reason, every gardener can cut back bushes, shrubs and flowers, knowing that this recyclable waste will not be lost but can soon be made available to the garden as fertiliser or mulching material.

And composting also saves money. Less fertiliser needs to be purchased and less waste goes into the bin.



Tip:

Achieving the correct mix is essential: The mix of “green” nitrogenous and “brown” carbonaceous plant trimmings created during shredding produces an ideal fertiliser.

What to do with all the leaves?

Collect the leaves conveniently using the grass catcher box of a VIKING lawn mower or lawn tractor, for example. **Shred** the leaves and **mix them with fresh lawn clippings**. This kills two birds with one stone: The lawn clippings are aerated, as the leaf remains prevent sticking together and decay; whilst the leaves enrich the nitrogenous clippings with carbon – the ideal prerequisite for successful composting.

Creating the ideal fertiliser.

Good fertiliser is created when the ratio of carbon to nitrogen (C/N) is optimised during composting. The best value for a balanced C/N ratio is between 25:1 and 30:1.

If the carbon content is too high, the plant trimmings decompose more slowly a lack of nitrogen restricts the micro-organisms growth and reproductive cycle.

However, too much nitrogen also has disadvantages. Decomposition then takes place quickly, but too few stable humus compounds are created.

For this reason, you should observe the correct mixture ratio of the starting materials when layering the compost heap. The C/N ratio for lawn clippings is between 12:1 and 25:1, for vegetable waste 13:1, for leaves between 30:1 and 60:1 and for mixed garden waste between 20:1 and 60:1. With this in mind, your garden can offer the perfect basis for good fertiliser – and all free of charge.

Note: Compost exhibits various degrees of maturity and has a different appearance at each stage. **Good, finished compost has no unpleasant odour. It should smell and look like fertile soil.**



Composting made easy.

Collect and sort systematically: Separate branch material from soft plant trimmings and damp, earthy material.

Do not pile up large quantities of the same material, but always mix materials (e.g. lawn cuttings with wood chips).

Always place the compost container on the ground. Ensure protection against washing out, water-logging and drying out and provide for good ventilation. **Protect the material against rain.**

The composting process takes several months, depending on the time of year and the ambient temperature. **When the compost has matured it smells pleasantly of forest soil and fungus.**

Shredding makes conversion of the garden waste into nutritious finished compost even easier. This is due to the shredding process of branches, twigs and shrubs, tearing up the trimmings. This increases the surface area, the microbes work more effectively due to the larger “area of attack” and the garden waste decomposes faster.

Note: If you use shredded material, subsequent turning over of the compost is no longer required.



Tip:

Passing shredded material repeatedly through your garden shredder provides optimal mixing, aeration and re-shredding.

Collection and storage of composting material.

What can be composted? All organic, decomposable materials from the garden and household such as green waste, flowers, shrubs, leaves, lawn clippings, cuttings from trees, bushes and hedges, balcony plants, house plants, kitchen scraps (fruit and vegetables), tea, coffee, eggs, limited amounts of wood shavings and sawdust.

Not recommended for composting are weeds with a lot of seeds or roots, diseased plants, paper and cardboard. **Totally unsuitable for composting are metals, meat leftovers, plastics etc.**

Where is the ideal place for composting? The ideal location is semi-shaded, protected from the wind and providing room for collecting, sorting, shredding and composting. A pitchfork and a shovel should be close at hand for filling, aerating and removing the compost. If you are using an electric shredder, you will require an accessible mains connection. If an electricity supply is not available nearby, a VIKING petrol driven shredder is the solution. The distance to any neighbouring properties should also be considered.

Three compost bins are ideal: If there is enough room, and it is possible, three bins are an ideal solution; one for composting, one for the finished compost and one more for collecting dry plant trimmings. **Simple, well-ventilated collecting containers made from wood or plastic have proved to be successful for this purpose.**



A suitable mix of shredded hard and soft material from the garden as well as kitchen waste is the perfect basis for good compost.



Ten rules for good compost.

1. Gather **the correct proportions** of nitrogenous and carbonaceous plant trimmings.
2. **Remember, compost needs air.** Therefore, never lay the material in a trench and do not use containers which are closed on all sides.
3. Do not place the compost heap on a solid base made of stone, concrete etc. **The compost requires an "earth connection"**, so that earthworms and small organisms can penetrate it.
4. **Earthworms are beneficial to your compost heap** and are attracted by phlox and elder, for example. Onion skins, chive residues, ground coffee and tea leaves are also favourite foods for earthworms.
5. **Create order in your compost heap.** For the bottom layer, pile up coarse shredded material – approximately 20 cm high. On top of this add mixed, finer materials such as leaves or shredded material.
6. **Thinly spread in lawn clippings** – to prevent the danger of decay!
7. **Always cover kitchen waste with soil**, as it attracts vermin.
8. **Avoid totally dry conditions**, as micro-organisms in compost heaps need moisture.
9. **Do not water the compost excessively.**
10. **Cover up the finished compost heap.**



The shredder is always in season.

If you wish to permanently improve the appearance of your garden and treat it with natural fertiliser, then a garden shredder is an indispensable tool that can be relied on throughout the gardening year.

High season for the shredder is of course the autumn. As the days get shorter, you can prepare the garden for the winter break ensuring a fertile garden season in the following year. You may need to prune trees and trim hedges and shrubs. Or you may clear large quantities of leaves from the lawn and mow it for the last time before the frost and snow arrives. Whatever your specific activities, in autumn you are likely to produce large amounts of plant trimmings which you can recycle and beneficially utilise with the aid of your shredder.

However, your shredder is still in demand during the spring and summer, when large amounts of organic waste can be processed: branches, flower cuttings, kitchen waste and much more. Whether you trim a sprawling clematis or prune your roses – **the shredder can convert your cuttings into nutritious fertiliser and high-grade structural material for your compost.** Simply and quickly.



Shredders are used in the garden from spring through to autumn.



A shredder always pays.

As with all good investments including garden shredders, the **numerous advantages and potential for savings more than compensate for the purchase costs.**

- You need less artificial fertiliser and humus, because you convert your clippings into high-grade fertilising material.
- You utilise the raw materials from your own garden in an appropriate manner and support the natural cycle.
- If you have to dispose of your garden waste via the green waste bin, you can make significant savings on charges due to the reduced volumes achieved.
- You create space and order in your garden.
- By purchasing a high quality garden shredder, you will be rewarded with robustness, reliability and long service life.
- You will avoid the import of contaminants from bought-in humus.



The shredder – even in small gardens.

The decision on the worth of buying a shredder is not a question of garden size, but of the planting design. Even in small gardens, a lot of shredding material may be produced, especially if it contains lush bushes and trees, bushy shrubs and hedges. In addition, natural lawn clippings and kitchen waste may also be produced. With a suitable shredder you can, even in a small garden, recycle everything – quickly and easily.



Everything for your safety.

Your safety is a priority for us at VIKING and you should always be confident in the shredder you are using. You should only work with a machine which has passed all relevant safety and quality regulations. We voluntarily have all machines certified by independent test institutions such as the TÜV (Technical Supervisory Association).

When purchasing a shredder, you should also be aware of the feed chute characteristics. It should be high enough so that you cannot reach the cutting tools with your hands.

Ensure that neither soil, stones, glass, nor plastic components are fed into the shredder. These will cause damage to the cutting blades.

If the discharge opening should become blocked, switch off the machine first before looking to remedy the fault.

In addition, you should ensure that the extension cable is kept away from the danger area of the blade.

Finally, check whether the power socket is equipped with an installed, legally-prescribed residual current operated device. This switches the shredder off automatically in the case of a cable being damaged.



Safety checklist:

- When working, always wear gloves, safety glasses, robust shoes and, if necessary, hearing protection.
- Do not allow children to work with the shredder.
- Modifications to the machine must not be made.
- Read the instruction manual before initial use.
- Place the garden shredder on firm ground and ensure that it cannot tilt.

What to consider when selecting your garden shredder.

The right choice for every requirement.

Find out on this page which model is best suited to your requirements.

1. What types of material do you wish to process and in what amounts?

The selection of the appropriate garden shredder model depends on the type and amount of material you wish to shred. On the right-hand side of the chart you can find suitable garden shredders for processing various quantities and different types of shredding materials.

2. Do you plan to use the shredder in a noise-sensitive area?

In this case, the electric GE 135 L, GE 140 L and GE 35 L shredders are recommended due to their low-noise operation. All VIKING garden shredders are soundproofed.

3. Is an electrical power supply available?

If so, you can choose from a wide selection of electric models. If not, our petrol machines are also available to choose from – they are shown separately in the chart.



Checklist:

- Will hard or mixed material be processed?
- Large or small amounts of garden waste?
- Is a particularly quiet shredder required?
- Electric or petrol?

Increasing processing quantity

						
		GE 135 L	GE 140 L	GE 35 L		
						
			GE 103	GE 105		
						
			GE 150	GE 250 S		
						
			GE 250	GE 355		
						
				GE 260 S	GB 370 S	
						
			GE 260	GE 375		
						
			GE 420	GE 450	GB 460	
						
					GB 460 C	
						

Hard shredding material



Mixed/soft shredding material





Model	GE 135 L	GE 140 L	GE 35 L	GE 103	GE 105	GE 150
Rated voltage	230 V~					
Power (W)	2.300	2.500	2.500	1.800	2.200	2.500
Max. branch diameter Ø (mm)	up to 35	up to 40	up to 35	up to 30	up to 35	up to 35



Model	GE 250	GE 250 S	GE 260	GE 260 S	GE 355	GE 375	GE 420	GE 450
Rated voltage	230 V~	230 V~	400 V 3~	400 V 3~	230 V~	400 V 3~	230 V~	400 V 3~
Power (W)	2.500	2.500	2.900	2.900	2.500	3.000	3.000	3.800
Max. branch diameter Ø (mm)	up to 30	up to 35	up to 35	up to 40	up to 35	up to 40	up to 50	up to 55



Model	GB 370 S	GB 460	GB 460 C
Engine type	B&S Series 850 PRO RS OHV	B&S Series 850 PRO RS OHV	B&S Series 3115 OHV
Nominal output at working speed	3,3 kW/4,5 HP, 3.000 rpm	3,3 kW/4,5 HP, 3.000 rpm	6,6 kW/9 HP, 2.800 rpm
Max. branch diameter Ø (mm)	up to 45	up to 60	up to 75

VIKING garden shredders – always an asset.

VIKING garden shredders are not only a valuable asset for your garden, but also for the environment. Our machines are produced using recyclable materials, and when a VIKING garden shredder reaches the end of its useful life, most of its components can be recycled.

What is more, we use only high grade components to ensure high quality performance and long service life. Decades of experience combined with well considered design and precise workmanship are reflected in each model. And for spare parts and servicing, you can rely on

the qualified service of your VIKING Approved Dealer.

Your VIKING garden shredder will accompany you through many years of gardening, creating order and space in your garden and delivering material for natural fertiliser. You can improve your soil quality and can dispense with artificial fertilisers. This is what we call sustainability.

So you see: A VIKING garden shredder pays off in the long term – for your garden, your wallet and the environment.



Performance in practice



VIKING Specialist Dealer

VIKING – a member of the STIHL group.