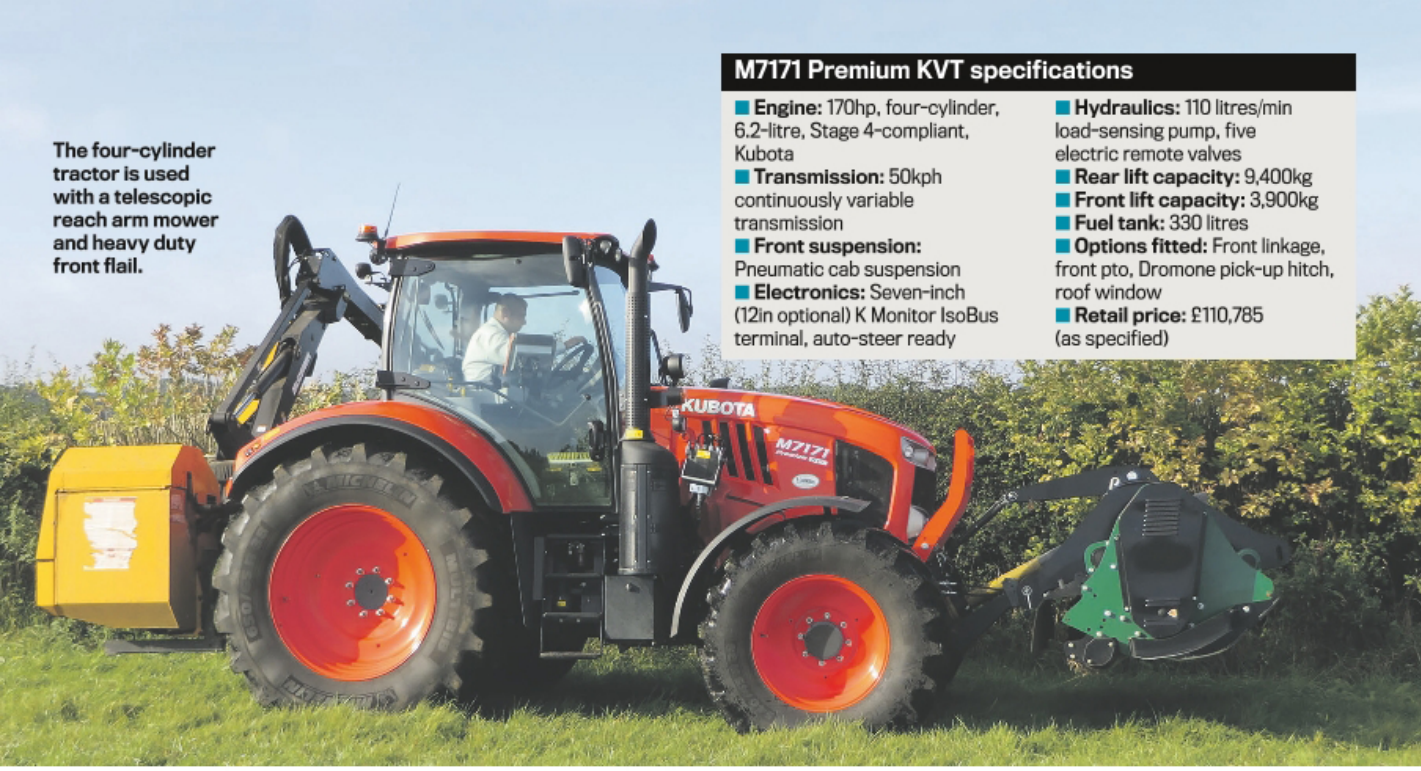


The four-cylinder tractor is used with a telescopic reach arm mower and heavy duty front flail.

M7171 Premium KVT specifications

- **Engine:** 170hp, four-cylinder, 6.2-litre, Stage 4-compliant, Kubota
- **Transmission:** 50kph continuously variable transmission
- **Front suspension:** Pneumatic cab suspension
- **Electronics:** Seven-inch (12in optional) K Monitor IsoBus terminal, auto-steer ready
- **Hydraulics:** 110 litres/min load-sensing pump, five electric remote valves
- **Rear lift capacity:** 9,400kg
- **Front lift capacity:** 3,900kg
- **Fuel tank:** 330 litres
- **Options fitted:** Front linkage, front pto, Dromone pick-up hitch, roof window
- **Retail price:** £110,785 (as specified)

is the use of Kubota's KVT, continuously variable transmission, which can be controlled via pedal or joystick.

Mr Jolliffe says: "It is ideal for hedgecutting as it is easy to increase or decrease speed and you are always at the right speed. On jobs such as laying tracks, the set speeds mean road planings are distributed evenly by the spreading bar."

Mr Farnell adds: "It is so easy and smooth to use on the road, especially when the cruise is set.

"Top speed is 50kph, but more importantly, you can pull away easily at junctions without hunting for the right gear. In the field, you are never over-revving in too low a gear or struggling in too high a gear."

Good balance and solid back-end of the four-cylinder-powered tractor mean it is more than up to lifting the powerful hedgecutter, even without front weights, suggests Mr Jolliffe.

A large, airy cab and good all-round visibility for hedgecutting from one-piece glass doors and narrow mudguards were among the first features Mr Farnell noted on the German prototype.

Logical

He says: "I also like the large terminal, which is very logical and easy to use. You could put someone who has never driven the tractor in the cab if necessary and they could take it down the road.

"There are a few niggles – all of the armrest buttons are identical in size, so you have to check to make sure you have selected the right one.

"At the moment, the front linkage cannot be controlled via the loader joystick, which would be useful, but we expect Kubota will address this after customer feedback. There is a slightly cheap and 'plasticky' feel to controls, but we appreciate it is early days for this tractor."

As contractors, they have found the new tractors have attracted plenty of attention from customers.

Mr Jolliffe says: "Farmers were pretty sceptical, but once they have had a look around the tractor and seen what it can do, they are impressed. We are really happy with the M7171 and would recommend it to other contractors."



Contractor James Jolliffe has bought a pair of Kubota M7171 tractors.

