

Time-saving techniques soccer

BY DARIAN DAILY

“Work smarter not harder.”



How many times have we heard that old saying? If you are like me, you never seem to have enough time when it comes to getting all of your jobs completed. When I get one job completed, two more pop up.

Here are some effective time saving practices that can help complete your soccer pitch duties in record time:

The best time-saving practice is to use “cheater points.” Our cheater points are plastic anchors we drive into the ground. We have placed two sets of points to mark the corners of a soccer field and a football field. These points allow us to easily find the outer boundaries of each playing area.

We also have a set of cheater points that gives us a center line on an east to west axis and a set to give us a center line which runs north and south. By having these two extra sets of cheater points, we can get the correct measurements for any size field. These points also come in handy when we have events that we typically don't host such as lacrosse, rugby, field hockey, and others.

You can use anything as cheater points, the pre-made plastic anchors or an 8-inch metal spike with a washer on top. It is important to always make sure that you drive these objects deep enough into the ground to protect from injury and insure that you don't hit it with a piece of equipment. You can save numerous man-hours over the course of a year when you have your fields pre-marked.

Painting

Painting on any field, including soccer, is a very important job. When we paint any field, we always string line the entire field to ensure that we have straight lines and to give the painter a guide to follow. The key to having straight lines is pulling the string line as tight as you can and then “popping” it. This is similar to what a carpenter does before they chalk a string line on wood.

If you have a loose line, you may have a string line that has a bow in it and when you pop the line, the line will fall untrue. If you have a bow in the line and the painter does not pay close attention, they will paint along the line, with the bow, and paint a crooked line.

Maintaining the Grounds



When it comes to marking the field for play, soccer is unique in that there is no set field length or width.



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The most frequently asked question from those who have not painted a soccer pitch is "How do you paint the circles?" I have learned two ways. The first is to have a person walk backwards and mark a line in the turf and then have the painter follow the marked line with the painter. This method is labor intensive, not to mention the fact that the person who draws the short straw and walks backwards tends to get a headache from the blood rushing to their head.

Another method is to have a pre-cut rope or chain that you attach on one end to a spike or nail at the center of the penalty dot and on the other end to your paint machine. The total length from the spike to the outside of your painted line should be 30 feet. Once you have the rope tight, just start walking. The rope will pull the paint machine in an arc and will give you your line. This method is very easy and, best of all, only requires one person, thus saving time.

Using stencils has long been a standard "short cut" for sports turf managers. In soccer, the use of a corner arc stencil is a great way to give an accurate, sharp, and consistent mark. We made the 1-yard arc cut into a thin piece of masonite board. We measured 3 feet from the corner of the wood and then cut out the 4-1/2 inches to form the corner kick arc. This stencil gives us a consistently duplicable arc.

Managing wear areas

Soccer is a little different than other sports when it comes to marking the pitch or field for play. Soccer has a unique distinction that there is no set length or width for their playing surfaces.

The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rule book only gives the maximum and minimums dimensions for a field. The law states, "The field of play must be rectangle. The length of the touchline (or sideline) must be greater than the length of the goal line." FIFA says a soccer pitch may have a length of between 130 yards and 100 yards and a width from 100 yards to 70 yards.

By using this law, you can change the dimensions of your pitch so that you can move your wear areas. You can change the length of the pitch if you need to give the goalmouths a rest or change the width if you need to move the sidelines.

It may sound strange to move the sidelines but if you deal with soccer, you know about the "Deer Run," the area that the referee assistants run up and down all along the sidelines. To help cut down on the damage, you can fluctuate the width by 2-3 feet on each side and still adhere to the laws of soccer. This may sound like a small thing to do, but it will save lots of time and energy in trying to maintain these areas.

I found most damage to goalmouths occurs during training sessions. To help save your goalmouths, place the goals at the top of the 6-yard box or the 18-yard box to reduce stress that is placed on the area. If you are in a multi-use situation, you can move the goals completely off the field when not in use. If removing the goals is not an option, try removing the nets. I have found that people do not like chasing after balls when there are no nets up.

I hope you find that these few timesaving techniques make your jobs easier and more enjoyable as they have for us.

ST

Darian Daily is director of stadium grounds, Columbus Crew Stadium, Columbus, OH.



The best timesaving practice is to use "cheater points" that help you easily find the outer boundaries of each playing area.

THE "TOPDRESSER STORE"

All Bannerman topdressers are designed and built to the highest engineering standards, hydraulically controlled and accurately calibrated to ensure uniformity and economy, says the company. Their topdressers will spread uniform layers of material from 1/4 of an in. or less and up to 1-2 in. All are accurately calibrated and range in size from 1.5 cu. yd. capacity up to 7.5 cu. yd. Bannerman topdressers will allow you to dispense either wet or dry materials.

Bannerman/800-665-2696
For information, circle 062



SPREADERS

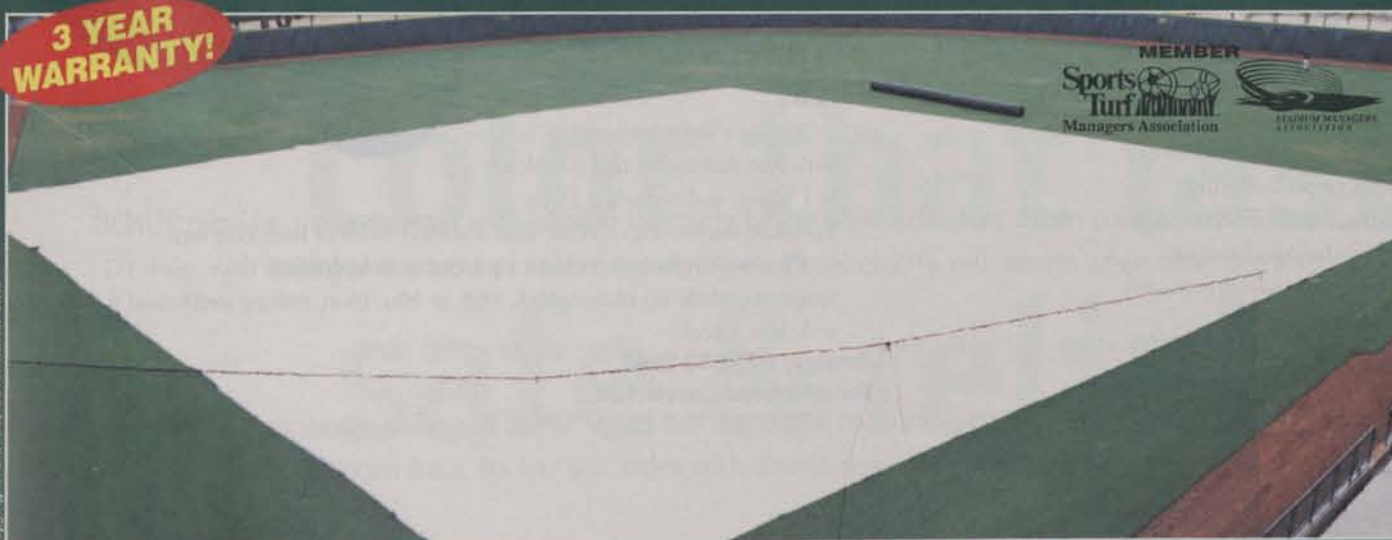
Redexim Charterhouse models 1010 and 1520 are dual-mode top-dressers, functioning as drop spreaders using a rotary brush or as broadcast spreaders. The smaller unit, model 1010 is a trailed unit with four pivoting wheels and a capacity of 35.3 cu. ft. Model 1520, the largest in the whole line, offers a big 70.6 cu. ft. capacity and a drop spreader width of 5 ft.

The remaining models in the line function as drop spreaders only. The smallest unit offered by Redexim Charterhouse, model 1005, features a three-point linkage mounting, a 26.5 cu. ft. capacity and a drop spreading width of 5 ft. The larger model 1205 is a truckster-mounted unit designed for the John Deere Gator and it offers a 28.2 cu. ft. capacity and a seeding width of 6 ft.

Redexim Charterhouse/800-597-5664
For more information, circle 061



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features a full line of turf care equipment and landscape maintenance products specifically engineered for commercial landscapers, including the 5521 Commercial Walk-Behind Mower with a 5.5 HP Kawasaki OHV engine and a 21-in. cutting deck. The 5521 unit offers the following features: 21-in. stamped steel deck; 3-Speed Tuff Torq transmission; standard 3-In-1 rear discharge deck offering mulching, side discharge or bagging; 6-position dual-range cutting height adjustment allows 12 choices of cutting height from 3/4 to 4 in.; 3-position handle adjustment; and steel wheels.

Cub Cadet Commercial/877-835-7841
For information, circle 193



INJECTION SYSTEM

The Cushman Envirojet pull-behind chemical injection system applies amendments directly to the turf root zone. The patented system cleanly and safely saturates the target area to apply fertilizer, treat fungal infestations or other applications, says the company.

Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products/888-922-TURF
For information, circle 063



DETHATCH THIS!

Smithco has introduced its Verti-Star dethatcher that cuts down to 1 1/2 in. and features a 13-hp Vanguard engine with electric start and electric lift of thatching unit.

Plus the Smithco unit comes equipped with hydrostatic drive, grade C2 tungsten carbide tip blades (3/64, 5/64, or 1/8), 16-in. cutting width, and stable wide rear wheels.

Smithco/877-833-7648
For information, circle 199

BOOM SPRAYER

Walker Manufacturing introduces a new sprayer attachment for the front of the Walker mower. The SP6640 boom sprayer is easily mounted to all 42-, 48-, and 54-in. Walker decks and offers a 96-in. spray pattern. A spray gun with a 20-ft. hose and adjustable spray tip allows the operator to spray a mist and adjust to a 35-ft. stream. The 25-gal. tank contains a sump for tank and spray system cleaning.

Equipped with a constant pressure Shur-Flo pump and Viton valves, optimum spraying can be achieved at all times with a wide range of spray material, says the company.

Walker Manufacturing/800-279-8537
For information, circle 191





KUBOTA EXPANDS ZERO-TURN LINE

Kubota entered the zero turn mower market last year with the introduction of its ZD-Series and now offers the turf professional a larger, more powerful, comfortable and competitively priced zero-turn mower, the ZD28F.

Powering Kubota's ZD28F is a durable liquid-cooled 3-cylinder E-TVCS diesel engine which has higher torque curves than competitive diesel and gas powered ZTRs. This engine operates at lower rpms, lower noise levels and offers better fuel efficiency and longer life, says the manufacturer.

All ZD-Series mowers use Kubota's exclusive design one piece hydrostatic transmission (HST) in an integral-type twin package, designed specifically for the ZD. This system uses two shaft-driven piston pump hydros to supply power to the final drives. The low noise direct shaft drive mowers are 60 or 72 in. wide, and have three blades. Cutting height can be adjusted from 1" to 5" in half-inch increments. All deck controls are easily accessible from the driver's position.

Kubota Tractor Corp./888-4KUBOTA, ext. 900
For information, circle 192

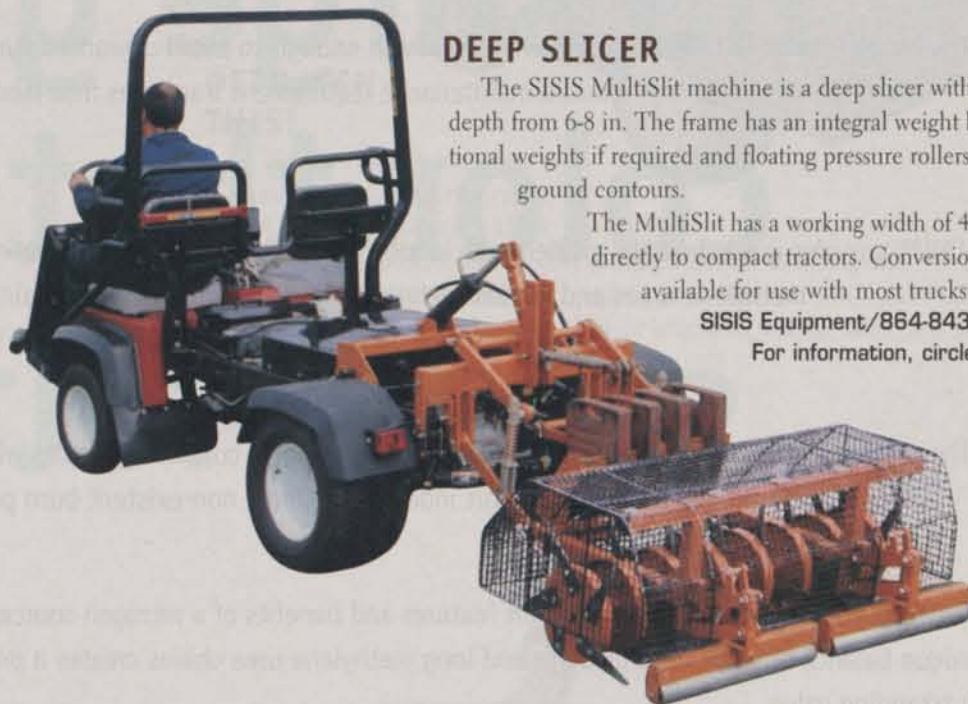


AERATION, COMPACTION RELIEF

The Terra Spike XP provides deep aeration and compaction relief down to 16 in. and offers central tine angle adjustment as well as central depth adjustment. Units also offer integrated shock-absorbing system and "quick fit" integrated tine mounting and extraction system.

The XP is versatile in offering a range of tine equipment and rear-mounted accessories. When hollow coring a core scraper collector or swathing attachment can be fitted.

Wiedenmann/912-790-3004
For information, circle 202



DEEP SLICER

The SIS MultiSlit machine is a deep slicer with a working depth from 6-8 in. The frame has an integral weight bar for additional weights if required and floating pressure rollers that follow ground contours.

The MultiSlit has a working width of 48 in. and fits directly to compact tractors. Conversion frames are available for use with most trucksters.

SISIS Equipment/864-843-5972
For information, circle 194



THE RIGHT MIX

The Spramate from Broyhill is a dedicated spraying vehicle, ideal for all types of chemical application. The hydraulically-driven centrifugal pumping system with Quad-Jet agitation ensures total chemical mixing. With the Kohler 18-hp, V-Twin cylinder engine and multi-leaf, high-travel front suspension the unit offers a smooth ride.

The low-profile poly tanks come in two sizes, 160- and 210-gal., and the patented fill well spill-moat and locking lid reduces chemical spills. A 21-in. low-profile boom and electronic spray control package comes standard, along with the option of a hose reel and walking boom.

Broyhill/800-228-1003 x 34
For information, circle 190



COMPACT CORDLESS DRILL

DeWALT has redesigned its line of 12-, 14.4-, and 18-volt compact cordless drill/drivers so they are smaller, balanced and more durable. The DW927K-2 model shown weighs less than 4 lbs. but delivers 300 in./lbs. of torque. The T-style handle is better positioned to improve balance and feel, says the company.

DeWALT/800-433-9258

For information, circle 201



UV FEATURES FRONT DISC BRAKES

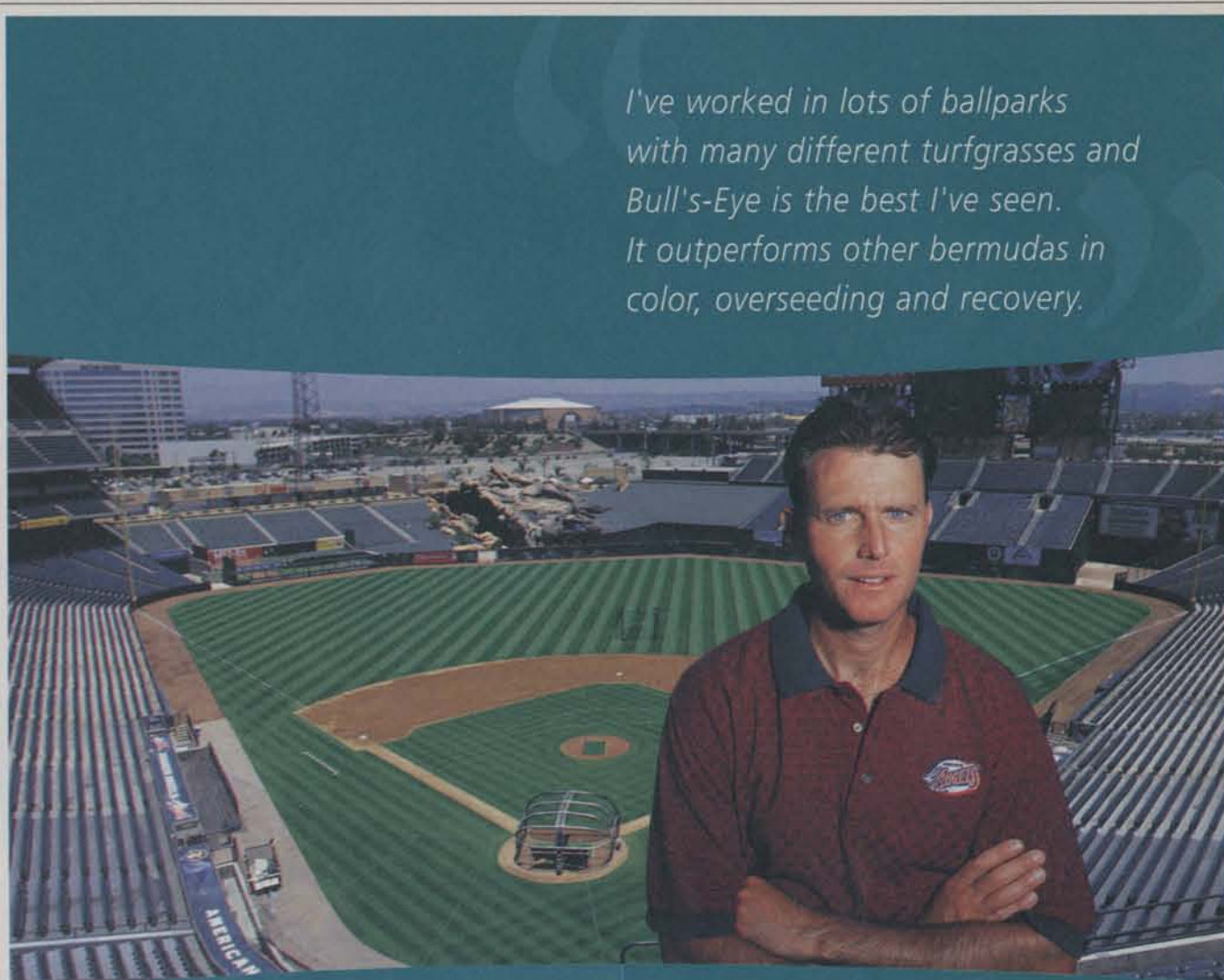
Available this month, the Toro Workman 2110 utility vehicle features hydraulic self-cleaning front disc and rear drum brakes. The enhanced braking system allows for increased braking ability and a towing capacity of 1,200 lbs. when using a heavy-duty tow hitch. In addition, the Workman 2110 has a powerful 16-hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard air-cooled gas engine.

"The front disc brakes provide optimum braking performance under hilly or heavy load conditions for high productivity and long-term value," said Neil Borenstein, Toro's senior marketing manager for vehicles. "The hydraulic brake system offers exceptional trailer towing capacity, increasing the versatility of the machine."

The mid-duty Workman 2110 offers a wide range of attachments such as a canopy, solid and folding windshield, portable refreshment center, hard cab, ballfield groomer, brush guard and bumper and many more attachments to customize your Workman for your specific needs.

The Toro Co./800-803-8676

For information, circle 195



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Maintaining the Grounds

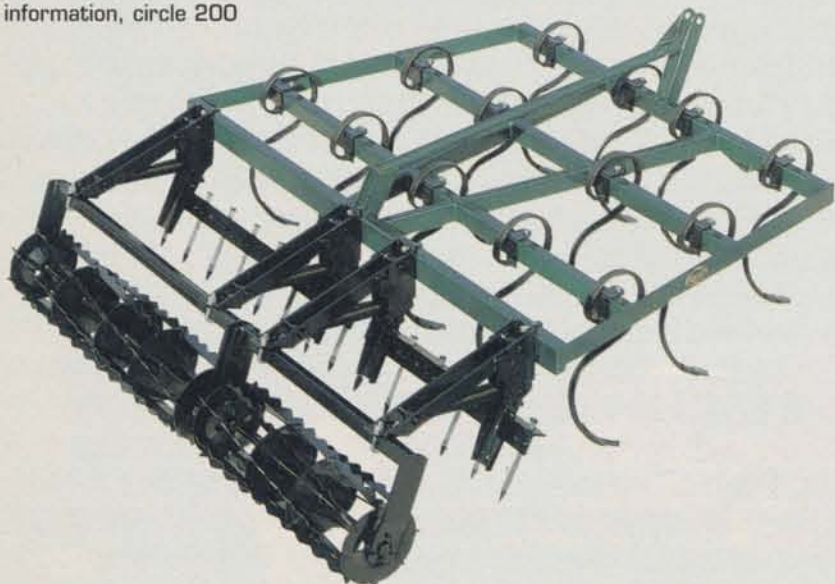
SEEDBED FINISHER

Town & Country has available its Freedom seedbed finisher. The company says it takes only one pass to turn rough grade into a finished seed or sod bed. The unit's three rows of staggered edge-bent S-tines with 7-in. sweeps till and penetrate soil, and its working depth is adjustable to 6 in. For lighter soils, use S-tines with 2 3/4-in. shovels.

Available in 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-ft. models, tractor pulling power requirements are 3-6 hp per foot of working width. Uses category 1 hitch.

Town & Country Ltd/419-532-3553

For information, circle 200



BACKPACK SPRAYER

Shindaiwa's new ES726 engine-driven backpack sprayer is suitable for spraying small trees, sports turf, and for perimeter pest control. Competitive units with centrifugal pumps and low operating pressures do not provide the same degree of in-tank agitation and mist metering, says the company, which limits their use with certain wettable powders and applications.

The proven 230 series engine with chrome plated cylinder and two ring piston-produces 1.1 hp for maximum performance and long life in commercial applications. The 7-gal. tank capacity gives the user long run time and excellent in-tank agitation allows for the application of wettable powder chemicals. Quick adjustable padded shoulder straps and padded backrest provide the operator maximum comfort.

Shindaiwa, Inc./503-692-3070

For information, circle 203

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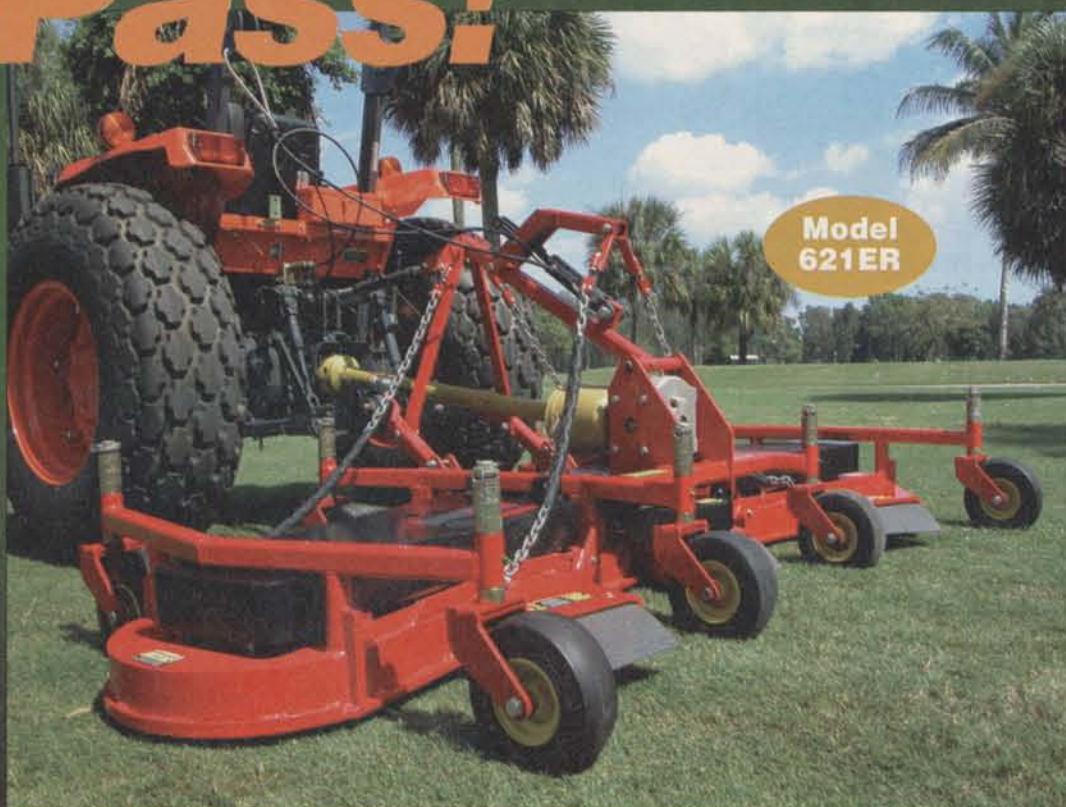


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**Model
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MINI EXCAVATOR

Caterpillar's 301.5 mini hydraulic excavator can dig in tight places, the company says, while at the same time tread lightly on turf. Powered by a Cat 3003 naturally aspirated diesel engine with flywheel power of 17.4 hp, the machine also incorporates a triple pump hydraulic system to balance digging power with machine speed. The unit can climb grades of up to 30 degrees.

An independent 2-speed motor drives each track, and the track drive modules are integrated into the roller frame for protection. Nine-in. wide track shoes in both rubber and steel can be interchanged to suit different turf conditions.

Caterpillar/309-675-8995

For information, circle 197

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SPREADER

SpreadEx, division of TrynEx International, has introduced its new LG 375 commercial-duty granular spreader, designed for the turf market. Standard with a 10-ft. control cable, the spreader's material flow gate calibrates and controls material flow and allows the operator to distribute the right amount of material for each individual application, says the company. An adjustable deflector allows for spread pattern manipulation.

Designed to work with tractors, utility vehicles, riding mowers, trailers, and pickups, the LG 375 comes standard with a 2-in. receiver hitch mount. Optional three-point hitch, drop utility, and trailer mounts are available. No belts, pulleys or chains limit downtime. Holding up to 3.25 cu. ft. or 275 lbs. of dry, free-flowing granular material, the unit's 10-in. steel spinner can spread up to 40 ft. wide.

TrynEx International/800-725-8377

For information, circle 196



DUAL-SPREADING TOPDRESSER

Earth & Turf Company increases the versatility of its Model 300 MultiSpread topdresser by adding a dual-spinner spreading option. The unit has a truck capacity of 22 cu. ft. and will spread up to 15 ft. wide. It spreads topdressing for athletic fields, golf greens, infield mix for baseball fields, chips on pathways and salt, sand or grit on sidewalks and driveways. It is also available with a beater or brush spreading mechanism so operators can now choose from three spreading options to get the best results for their operations.

Earth & Turf Company/888-693-2638

For information, circle 204