

# Fully use your utility vehicle

BY STEVE RUDOLPH



All photos courtesy of Polaris Sales Inc.

**T**urf professionals have long used utility vehicles to safely and quickly get from point A to point B. Now some are finding it's also possible to get a little work done along the way.

"Today's utility vehicles are designed for so much more than just transportation," said Tony Wixo, product manager for the Polaris Professional Series line of commercial-grade vehicles and equipment.

One of the most versatile of the utility vehicle attachments is the power broom or sweeper. Affixed to the front of a vehicle, power brooms allow the operator to clean virtually anything from any surface.

On the turf, a utility vehicle equipped with a power broom can be used for dethatching, spring clean up or to clear debris following a storm. On sidewalks and parking lots, power brooms are ideal for removing dirt, sand, gravel and trash.

If you're located in an area where falling leaves are a precursor to falling snow, putting a power broom on a utility vehicle makes especially good sense.

"A power broom can clean packed snow right down to the surface or it can throw 6 to 8 inches of the fresh stuff nearly 15 feet," said Wixo. "It works better than a snow thrower."

If you plan to use a utility vehicle for snow removal, Wixo suggests selecting a model that can be equipped with a hardcab. "A hardcab and windshield wipers keep the driver protected from the elements and allow operation during even the nastiest of conditions," said Wixo.

A plow blade can be used in place of a power broom for heavy-duty snow removal. In the warmer months, the plow blade can also serve to move dirt and rock. To get the most use from any plow blade, it's recommended that it have heavy-duty wear bars and the ability adjust to different angles.

According to Wixo, one major factor to con-

sider when selecting any attachments for your vehicle is the ease of installation.

Choose attachments that can quickly be taken on and off by just one person. Also, be sure any connectors are weatherproof and of the highest quality to ensure years of successful operation.

Attachments aren't the only thing utility vehicles can be equipped with; they can also be fitted with add-ons, such as cargo and van boxes, that provide safe and secure storage for tools and equipment.

"You can even put a ladder rack on top of a vehicle or add a tool carrier and create your very own mobile work station," said Wixo.

With such a wide variety of accessories and attachments available, there's almost no limit to what utility vehicles can do. However, according to Wixo, before you run

out and purchase an attachment, you should look at the specifications of vehicle.

"Not all vehicles are created the same," said Wixo. "Take the example of a pickup truck. A plow blade on the front of a compact pickup truck might work fine for clearing a driveway. But if you need to clear a whole parking lot or commercial properties, I'd bet you would rather be driving a half-ton or full-ton truck with four-wheel drive.

"The same is true of utility vehicles. For these types of applications, all-wheel drive is a must. Low-end power and torque are an integral part of maximizing the on-the-job efficiencies that attachments can provide. And if you're working on turf that you don't want to tear up, lockable differential is a must. With it you can flip a switch and the wheels will turn independently of each other, minimizing any turf damage." **ST**

Steve Rudolph is an account manager with Karwoski & Courage Public Relations.





## Keeping it safe

**W**hen purchasing or renting a new utility vehicle most people look at performance, features and price. Chances are safety features are not at the top of the list – but they should be.

Selecting utility vehicles that emphasize safety can reduce the risk of workplace accidents, and might actually save your organization some money. Unfortunately, safety features vary greatly on today's models so you'll need to do your homework to find the best utility vehicle for your applications.

The use of utility vehicles at work is still relatively new – so new that the government has yet to develop many safety standards governing their design and operation. But that hasn't stopped many of the leading manufacturers from incorporating enhanced safety features into their designs.

According to Tony Wix, product manager for Polaris' Professional Series line of commercial-grade utility vehicles, the most significant safety feature a manufacturer can add to its vehicles is Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS) certification. Sometimes simply referred to as a roll bar or roll cage, ROPS protects a utility vehicle's occupants in the event the vehicle should roll over as a result of careless operation.

Additional vehicle features that can greatly improve vehicle safety include a reverse signal alarm that is audible over the surrounding noise, and brake lights that can be seen regardless of light conditions.

Once you've selected a utility vehicle equipped with all the safety features needed for your use, experts recommend instituting written policies that govern the vehicle's operation. Only designated employees should be allowed to drive utility vehicles and it's recommended that all operators go through some form of training before getting behind the wheel.

All utility vehicle operators should have a valid driver's license. Require your employees to notify a supervisor if their license is ever suspended or revoked, and periodically check records as an added safeguard.

Equipping your staff with the right utility vehicles for the job and properly managing the safe use of the vehicles can result in improved efficiency without the risk of increased accidents.

– Steve Rudolph

# FASTER STRONGER EASIER

## and best of all AFFORDABLE

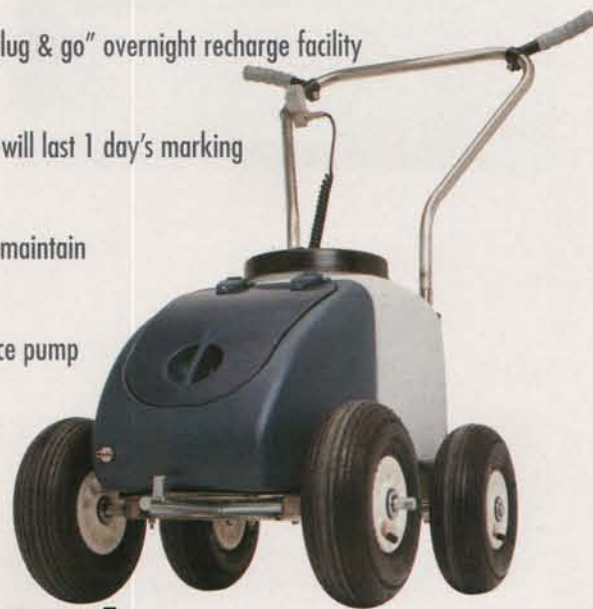
### The Kombi Line Marking Machine

*Save time and money! The Kombi's self mixing capabilities allow you to leave Fleet paint in the Kombi overnight and self mix the paint the next day directly in the machine.*

*Simply put, it's the best line marker on the market.*

#### Why it's the best

- Paint may be left in the Kombi overnight and remixed the next day
- Quick, simple "plug & go" overnight recharge facility
- Longlife battery will last 1 day's marking
- Easy to use and maintain
- High performance pump
- Self-cleaning



starting at  
**\$795**

Call us at  
1.800.228.1003 ext.34  
Or visit us on the web at  
[www.broyhill.com](http://www.broyhill.com)  
[www.fleetlinemarkers.com](http://www.fleetlinemarkers.com)

**Fleet Broyhill** L.L.C.  
when only perfection will do

Circle 111 on card or [www.OneRS.net/211sp-111](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-111)



## TRACTOR FEATURES "CAT-LIKE TREAD"

Seaford Head Golf Club, in Sussex, UK, relies on its Carraro TRX 8400 tractor for a variety of assignments including powering its heavy turf maintenance equipment. But according to head greenskeeper Dustin Houghton, the specialized tractor is also ideal for traveling over fine turf, such as greens, with a "cat-like tread."

The 74-hp unit weighs 4,200lbs. Like other Carraro models, it features ergonomic and operational functions to add simplicity, comfort and increased return on investment for turf maintenance work performed on golf courses and sports fields. And the TRX 8400 can be equipped with Nokia high-floatation tires, which were specified by Seaford Head, to reduce the ground pressure to a scant 6psi, to protect turf from potential damage.

Redexim Charterhouse/800-597-5664  
For information, circle 151



## LIGHTWEIGHT TURF VEHICLE

The Cushman Commander 4800 lightweight turf vehicle has a 16-hp V-twin engine and a tubular-steel frame that can carry payloads up to 800 lbs. Large 20 x 10-10 turf tires work to reduce turf compaction. The heavy-duty front and rear leaf-spring suspension and hydraulic shock absorbers combine with the locking differential, rack and pinion steering and ample ground clearance to provide operator comfort with better traction and handling in rough terrain. The exclusive, high-torque, continuously variable-transmission (CVT) with forward and reverse enhances ease of operation and driveability.

Textron Golf & Turf/706-798-4311  
For information, circle 152, or  
see [www.OneRS.net/211sp-152](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-152)

## VERSATILE UV

The Toro Workman with the Rahn groomer is perfect for finishing the playing surface in any ballpark. The Green Touch Industries bed rail system helps organize your tools. With the highest payload in its class, the mid-duty Workman allows you more versatility with one vehicle than ever before.

Toro/952-888-8801

For information, circle 150, or  
see [www.OneRS.net/211sp-150](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-150)





## DEERE UV

The John Deere ProGator utility vehicle combines modern styling and operator-friendly features with durability and power.

Available in 23.5-hp diesel and 26-hp gas versions, the vehicles have a 5-speed, fully synchronized transmission that let's you keep going without stopping to change gears. Hydrostatic steering provides for precision controls and a tight turning radius. With a 2,650-lb. payload capacity and a hydraulic lift, the ProGator can handle heavy loads.

John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 153, or see [www.OneRS.net/211sp-153](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-153)



## HANDHELD BLOWER

Shindaiwa has a new EB240S hand held blower. The unit features a revolutionary designed nylon impeller that is lighter in weight compared to the early die cast impeller featured on the EB240, but has the same great output and performance operators have come to expect.

Fast and flexible, the EB240S is often quicker than a backpack from truck to task. Also a great choice when the operator is responsible for a number of small jobs rather than cleaning a large area.

Shindaiwa Inc./800-521-7733

For information, circle 141 or see [www.OneRS.net/211sp-141](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-141)



# WHEN EVERY GAME COUNTS

## PROFESSIONAL GROUNDSKEEPING PRODUCTS

Infield Conditioner  
Calcined Clay  
Professional  
Top Dressing  
Drying Agent

Athletic Field Marking Dust  
Mound and Home Plate Clay and Bricks

800 228 2987 [www.diamondpro.com](http://www.diamondpro.com)

Visit Our New  
Updated Website



Circle 112 on card or [www.OneRS.net/211sp-112](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-112)



## READY TO GO

Club Car's Turf 272 utility vehicle sports a 351cc, 11-hp pedal-start gas engine and hauls up to 1,200 lbs. with nearly a foot of ground clearance. Its "Shift-on-the-Fly" differential lock provides extra traction on demand when necessary. The unit fits into a full-size pickup truck bed.

Club Car/800-227-0739

For information, circle 146 or see [www.OneRS.net/211sp-146](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-146)



## FRONT-MOUNT SNOW BLOWERS

Erskine Attachments offers seven models of front-mount, PTO-driven snow blowers from 54-108 in. wide to match a wide range of today's tractors from 18-150+ hp. A universal frame mount adjusts to fit most tractors. These frames all share as standard equipment a "Qwik-A-Tach" system for attaching and removing the blowers. Just center the tractor over the frame, and you can be ready to start blowing snow in a matter of minutes.

Erskine Attachments/701-241-8700

For information, circle 140



**Ease of a rotary with the striping of a reel.**

### Introducing the I-STRIPE™ 22.

You've never seen a rotary mower do what the I-Stripe™ 22 can do. The I-Stripe features a 22-inch self-propelled rear roller drive—similar to those used on walking greens mowers—to create a classic striped finish. Its finned deck gives you top-notch cutting and collection, and it's made of diecast aluminum for durability. You just can't pass on stripes like these.

Call 888.907.3463 to arrange your demo today.



[www.nationalmower.com](http://www.nationalmower.com)

## DEBRIS BLOWER

Goossen offers its new blower for clearing leaves and debris. The unit's 40-in. blower housing is split to allow easy access to fan. The 36-in. blower fan has eight paddles made of 1/4-in. steel and spins on greasable heavy-duty bearings. Bi-directional air discharge is controlled via lever from operator seat. 30 PTO hp is required for airflow that is 225 mph.

Goossen/800-835-1042

For information, circle 148







### NEW UTILITY VEHICLE

Snapper introduces the Grounds Cruiser, its first utility vehicle which features a 9.5-hp Kawasaki OHV engine with full pressure lubrication, an automatic torque converter transmission and a land speed up to 18 mph. Rack and pinion steering on a 78-in. wheel-base with independent front suspension and a rollover protection system keep operators comfortable and safe. The Grounds Cruiser carries up to 500 lbs. in its tilt cargo bed and has a trailer hitch to tow up to 1,000 lbs.

Snapper Co/888-SNAPPER  
For information, circle 142 or  
see [www.OneRS.net/211sp-142](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-142)

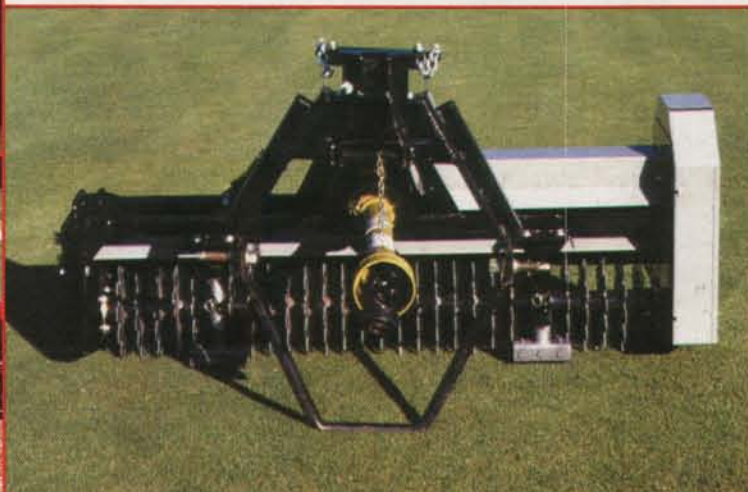
## Why settle for second best? First Products Inc.

Leading the way in innovation with unique ideals that make us "Second to none"  
[www.1stproducts.com](http://www.1stproducts.com)

First Products has established a reputation for providing quality equipment that provided years of dependable maintenance free service.

**"NEW for 2002 is the VC-60 Verti-Cutter and the 8ft & 12ft AGRI-Vator"**

The New Verti-Cutter used the same proven patented wing hitch as the time proven AERA-Vator. The swing hitch allows the VC-60 to operate in turns following contours and over undulations without tearing the turf. This feature saves valuable time eliminating the need to lift the unit when turning.



**First Products Equipments** is the "First" Choice for the demanding needs of today's Turf Professionals.  
1-800-363-8780 e-mail [sales@1stproducts.com](mailto:sales@1stproducts.com)

Circle 114 on card or [www.OneRS.net/211sp-114](http://www.OneRS.net/211sp-114)