Hand-held power: techno-marvels

BY TOM BERNSKY

Hand-held power equipment today is truly a modern techno-marvel. There are enough features, items, and brand names to give you plenty of choices as a professional. Let’s take a look:

Blowers

Today when it comes to power blowers, the sky’s the limit. There are hand-held blowers, backpack blowers and 5-plus-hp walk-behind blowers. With all the fuss over noise, manufacturers today have produced some of the quietest blowers ever.

Sure, there are many to choose from, but only a professional grade blower will outlast its price tag. A box mart blower is a toy not worthy of your consideration.

With all machines, consider first who will service it, and then its price. Choosing equipment any other way is certain disaster. Every LLC needs a back-up professional who knows the ins and outs of the machine.

Trimmers

Today, manufacturers of all varied shapes and sizes of trimmers in virtually all price ranges are found in the box mart. Curved-shaft trimmers are often found in your local box mart. They’re not too pricey, but these units are built for the weekend warrior (homeowner), definitely not for someone who has to rely on this machine at work. However, some professional curved-shaft models are available through your local servicing dealer.

Straight-shaft models are often the trimmers of choice for pros. But don’t make of assuming that something is automatically a professional unit just because it has a straight shaft. Many deceptive practices are presently taking place by manufacturers that offer straight-shaft units built like their curved cousins and not intended for everyday use, so don’t be fooled. If it’s in one of the box mart stores, it’s probably a dressed-up homeowner unit built solely for price, not performance.

Lastly, we have the multi-attachment trimmers that are the pros’ top-end models. With everything from hedge-trimmer attachments to small garden tillers, these units are versatile and easy to use in a variety of applications.

Tom Bernosky, president of Green Thumb Power & Equipment Corp., West Mifflin, PA, can be reached at gtpc@nauticom.net.

Where to find it...

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DRAG MATS

Beacon Ballfields now offers cocoa mat drags in two sizes. The 6-ft. wide by 4-ft. deep mat is available with or without the Beacon leveling bar. The company also offers a 6-ft. by 2 1/2-ft. deep hand cocoa mat drag. The 1-in. thick natural fiber cocoa mats have a vinyl backing. The lead edge is steel reinforced. Cocoa mats give your field that major league finish and are affordably priced for the budget conscious groundskeeper. Call Beacon for pricing and a catalog.

Beacon Ballfields/800-747-5985
For information, circle 184 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2076-184

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MADVAC/800-862-3822
For information, circle 182, or see www.oners.ims.ca/2076-182

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1-800-821-7925 • www.pbigordon.com
Circle 120 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2076-120
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Circle 122 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2076-122

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Missouri Turf/800-426-0774
For information, circle 181

**PRIVACY WINDSCREEN**

Missouri Turf introduces SmartScreen, an alternative to conventional woven windscreens. The extruded PVC product won’t unravel and holds its color for years. According to Missouri Turf president Jon Graves, “The new material looks like spaghetti but provides cushioning and wind blockage, as well as privacy.”

When used for chain link outfield fences, the companion product SmartCap also can be used to enhance safety and appearance of your field.

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Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products/888-922-TURF

For information, circle 178 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2076-178

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For information, circle 185 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2076-185

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**top.dress / top.dress.ing (top.dress)/(top.dress.ing)**

**vt.** 1. introducing new materials for improving or amending native soil conditions
2. an important agronomic practice resulting in safe, consistent, healthy turf
3. something done to create great playing conditions

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