

Hand-held power: techno-marvels



BY TOM BERNOSKY

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 8-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. Everyone needs a back-up professional who knows the ins and outs of the machines.

Trimmers

Today, manufacturers offer all types shapes and sizes of trimmers in virtually all price ranges, so which one will do the job for you?

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.

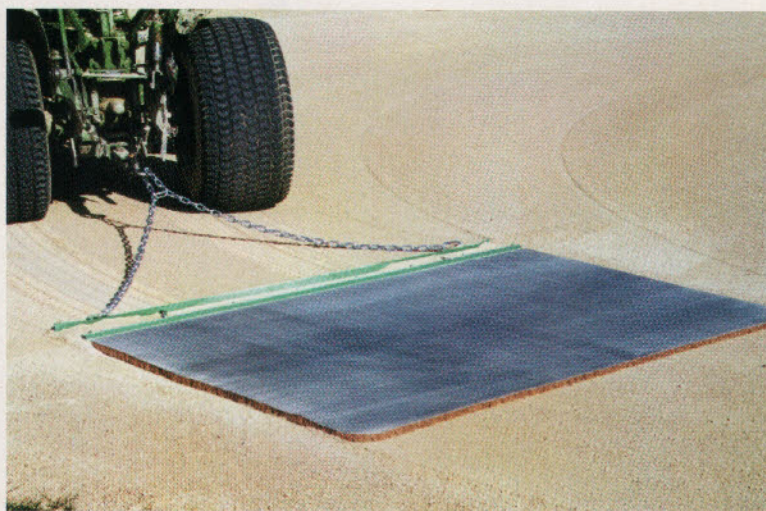
Lastly, we have the multi-attachment trimmers that are the pros' top-end models. With everything from hedge-trimmer attachments to small garden tillers, these units are versatile and easy to use in a variety of applications.

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

Where to find it...

	Chainsaws	Blowers	Trimmers	Edgers		Chainsaws	Blowers	Trimmers	Edgers
American Arborist (800-441-8381)	x	x	x	x	Karl Kuemmerling (888-222-6166)	x	x	x	
American Honda (800-426-7701)			x	x	Kawasaki (800-433-5640)		x	x	x
Ames True Temper (800-624-2654)			x	x	Kubota (310-370-3370)		x		
Bannerman Ltd. (800-665-2696)				x	Makita (800-462-5482)	x	x	x	x
Billy Goat Industries (816-524-9666)		x			Maruyama U.S. (425-885-0811)		x	x	x
Corona Clipper (800-234-7863)			x		Minuteman Parker (800-323-9420)		x		
E-Z Equipment (760-737-2400)	x	x	x	x	MTD Pro (877-683-7761)		x		x
E-Z Trench (843-756-6444)				x	Northern Tool & Equip. (800-556-7885)	x	x		x
Easy Lawn Inc. (800-638-1769)		x			Redmax (800-291-8251)	x	x	x	x
Erosion Control Tech. (800-245-0551)		x			Scag (920-387-0100)				x
Ewing Irrigation (800-343-9464)	x	x	x	x	Shindaiwa (800-521-7733)	x	x	x	x
Finn Corp. (800-543-7166)		x			Shred-Vac Systems (530-477-7240)		x		
Forestry Suppliers (800-647-5368)		x			Steiner Turf Equipment (330-828-0200)		x		
Giant Vac (860-423-7741)		x			Stihl Inc. (800-467-8445)	x	x	x	x
Goossen Industries (800-228-6542)		x			Swisher Mower (660-747-6528)				x
Great Dane (877-246-8770)		x			Textron (888-922-8873)		x		
Husqvarna (800-487-5969)	x	x	x	x	Turf Equip. & Supply (800-827-3711)		x		
John Deere (800-537-8233)					Turfco (800-679-8201)				x
Jonsered (800-447-1152)	x				Walker Manufacturing (800-279-8537)		x		



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

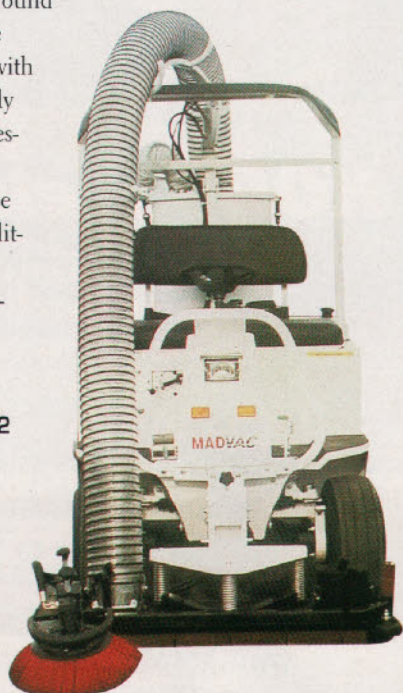
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MADVAC/800-862-3822

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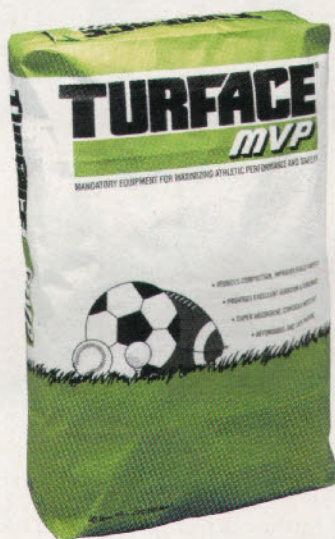
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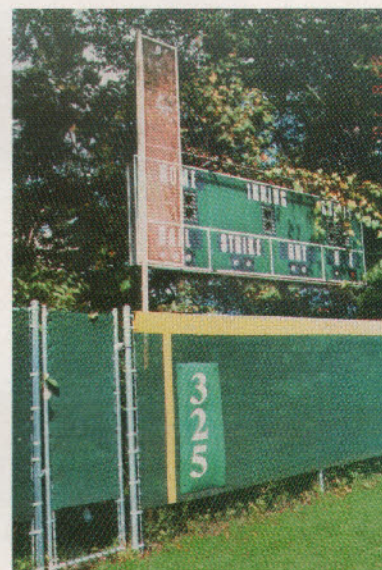
PRIVACY WINDSCREEN

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."

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Missouri Turf/800-426-0774

For information, circle 181



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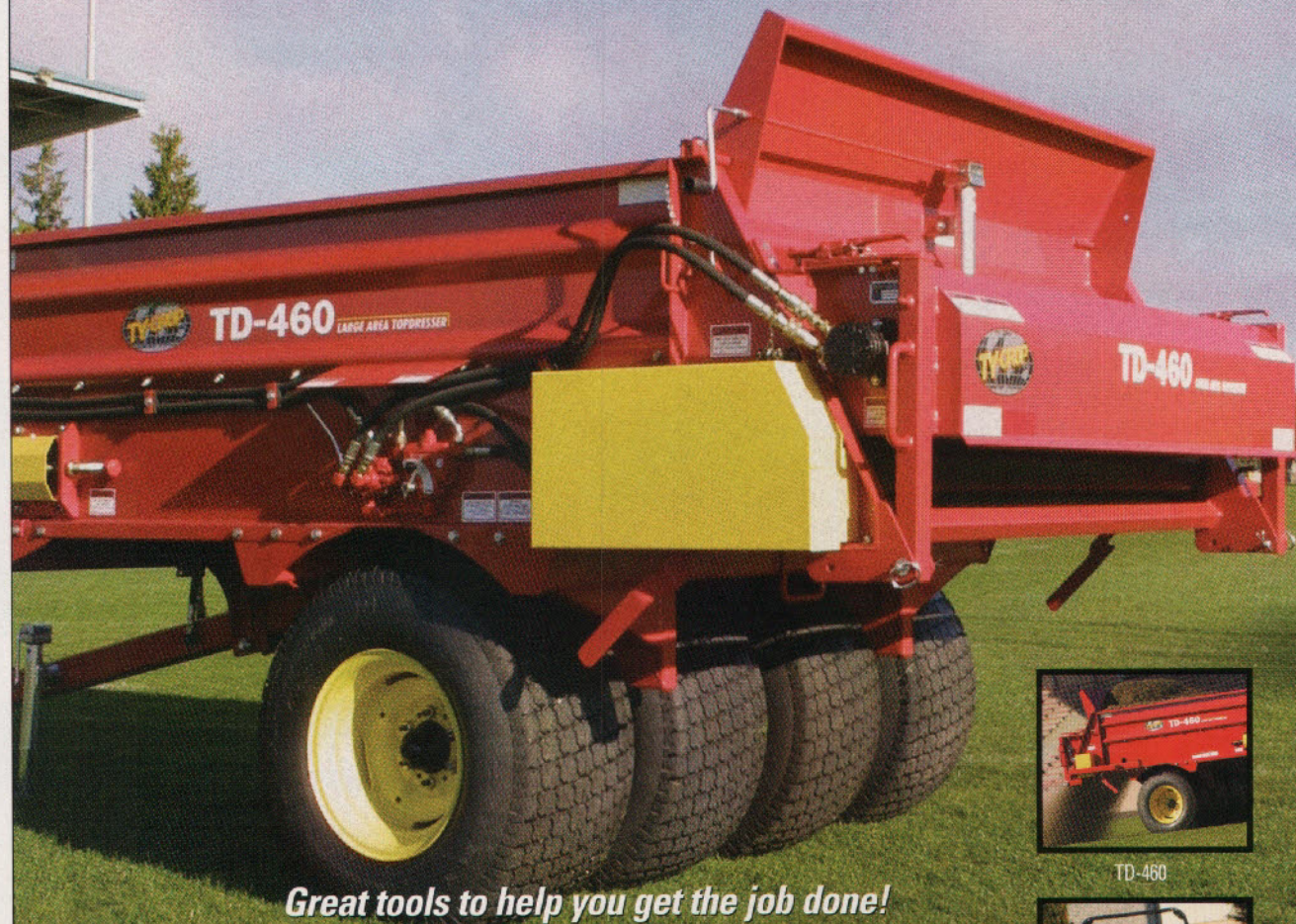
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