New equipment introduced at STMA show

The Toro Company unveiled the new and improved Toro Infield Pro 3040 and Infield Pro 5040 at the STMA Conference and Exhibition last month. The new models replace the original 3020 and 5020 models. Both new models feature the new Quick Attach System (QAS), which allows operators, in less than a minute, to switch from among 17 different attachments without using any tools.

Several new attachments are available, including the innovative Flex Blade, which can be easily adjusted for varied sports field environments, everything from flat dry base surfaces to rough sidelines. The blade's design allows operators to shape, contour and level sports field surfaces with just one pass of the machine. In addition, if the Flex Blade catches on the lip where the infield mix and grass meet, the attachment's flexible design minimizes damage to the turf.

In addition, three new mid-mount attachments offer greater scarifier flexibility. The weeder tine scarifier allows operators to clear weeds and break up soil for future improvements. Further, the solid tine scarifier is designed to break up the toughest soils, while the adjustable spring blade is best for gentle top work and moderate depth needs in neglected areas.

Greg Janey, product manager for the new Infield Pro machines, says the company's customer-driven market research showed many turf managers are using as many as five or six different machines to accomplish their maintenance objectives. The company spoke to more than 300 turf managers and 50 mechanic/technicians and spent several million dollars in testing and engineering to develop a machine specifically for sports turf managers.

According to Janey, the beauty of the Infield Pro includes permitting one operator to change out attachments alone, in some cases in less than a minute, and the easy access available for techs who maintain the machines. And the 17 attachments available were designed to handle specific duties for sports turf, e.g., the new hydraulic drag mat attachment, available in both steel and cocoa 2-foot designs, doesn't swing during turns and kick infield mix into the outfield grass. Another example is a hydraulic back blade that can be set at the same height as your home plate so you can level your infield at that height, and the flexible teeth on a scarifying attachment that move out of the way if necessary to give you a truly consistent surface. Toro has more attachments that correspond to different climates as well as different infield mix products.

"The Quick Attach System is great," said Sergio Lopez, a parks worker for the City of Goodyear's Parks and Recreation department in Arizona. "It's quick; you just snap on the attachment and you're done. It takes less than a minute."

Both units offer increased features and benefits. Equipped with a fuel-efficient, 16-horsepower Vanguard engine, the Infield Pro 3040 features environmentally sealed gear-drive steering, increased ground clearance, a new mid-mount scarifier/leveling system, and increased access to maintenance areas.

Complementing the standard series features, the premium Infield Pro 5040 offers an 18-horsepower engine, hydraulic power steering, and a Quick Attach System for front and rear attachments.

"The added features and ease of use of the new Infield Pro models will allow customers to be more productive and do more with less," Janey said. "We've substantially elevated the versatility of these machines."

These Infield Pro models offer 17 attachments including a tooth rake, solid or spring tine scarifier, hydraulically operated drag mat carrier system, spring rake, hydraulic flex blade, manual 40-inch dozer blade, finish grader, 58-inch spike, and QAS debris blower. The units also allow operators to carry three attachments at the same time, and the attachments can be raised for transport using the systems' hydraulic lift control.

The Toro Company/800-803-8676
For information, circle 067 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-067
“Turf Slicer”

The TS-48 by GreensGroomer opens up turf between core aerifications or before overseeding. The tow-behind unit requires no hydraulics, PTO, separate power source (engine), or three-point hitch setup. It is made up of two rows of tines, offset front to back to create 2 in. on center spacing. Each row of tines has a split shaft, reducing turf damage while making sharp turns. Two 25-gal. water tanks present infinite adjustment of addition weight. Simply adjust the gallons in each tank to create the desired depth of the tines. Weight adjustment can range from 0-400 additional lbs.

GreensGroomer/888-298-8852
For information, circle 058 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-058

The AER-AID turf aeration system from SISIS features fast air injection at close centers that enables turf professionals to give their turf a blast of air directly into the rootzone every time they aerify. The cam trigger system ensures that the air is always expelled at the bottom of the tine penetration, ensuring a targeted, precise and constant working depth. The depth is infinitely variable to a maximum of 5 ins.

SISIS/864-843-5972
For information, circle 059 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-059

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4. **Pioneer's Titan Removable System** includes all the materials needed to conveniently add and remove paint from synthetic turf. The Titan Removable System is ideal for painting temporary logos for special games and events. It is great for facilities that use the same synthetic playing surface for multiple sports. The complete system includes Titan removable paint, Titan Blitz Remover, a pump-up sprayer, and a Titan Removable Machine. The system has no harsh solvents, or potent chemicals.

Pioneer Manufacturing Co./800-877-1500
For information, circle 060 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-060

5. **Ferris Industries** has introduced the new IS 3100Z series zero-turn mower, which features an upgrade of Ferris' industry-exclusive four-wheel suspension. Model options include 61-in. double-top 10-gauge deck, Hercules spindles, and choice of 26-hp liquid-cooled Kawasaki, 30-hp Kohler Command, or 32-hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard Big Block engines.

Ferris Industries/800-933-6175
For information, circle 075 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-075
6. John Deere's XT140 SSELE professional-grade stick edger is powered by a 25.6-cc, low-emission M-Series engine. The large guide wheel makes for fast and easy edging, and its straight 59-inch shaft provides twice the torque of the traditional curved-shaft edger. The extra power helps the 8-in. blade hack through tough turf, while the adjustable depth control lets operators cut as deep as 2.25 in.

John Deere/800-537-8233
For information, circle 076 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-076

7. John Deere understands the increasing budget pressures sports turf managers are facing and has answered the need for quality, reliable equipment at a lower cost with John Deere Assured. Sports turf managers can find security when buying Assured Equipment with the knowledge that every machine has passed a rigorous 100-point inspection and is backed by a 1-year power train warranty. Find out more information or locate your local John Deere Golf & Turf distributor by visiting www.JohnDeere.com.

John Deere/800-537-8233
For information, circle 061 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-061

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Mike O'Neil
South Colonie Central Schools
Albany, NY 12205

"I love the ability to go out and aerate in the afternoon and play a game that night. We are one of the largest townships in the state of New York with several athletic fields. I put down perennial ryegrass seed every time I go out with my Aera-vator. Since we are restricted on chemical applications I use turf seed to compete with weed seeds. I also use my Aera-vator to stripe while using for all my playoff baseball, soccer, and field hockey games."
8. Newstripe has added a self-propelled Eco-Liner SP to their family of field markers. Weighing in at 125 lbs, the unit is maneuverable, easy to control, and priced at less than $2,200. Both the Eco-Liner II and Eco-Liner SP models incorporate a direct-drive industrial grade diaphragm pump coupled to a 3.5-hp engine providing paint pressure up to 60 psi.

Newstripe, Inc/800-624-6706
For information, circle 073 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-073

9. Redexim Charterhouse will now offer two additional models of the Verti-Quake the 2516 and 2521. The Verti-Quake is a rotary aerator that de-compacts the soil using a set of rotating steel blades. As these blades cut cleanly through the soil, they create a wave action that shatters compacted areas and opens up the subsoil. The Verti-Knife 2516 and 2521 both work to a depth of 10 in., but now are available with a new direct drive system and individual shear bolts are no longer used on the blades.

Redexim Charterhouse/800-597-5664
For information, circle 074 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-074