

New equipment introduced at STMA show

1. 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 tine 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



Toro introduces
Infield Pro

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 spiker, 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.

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