

# Is a propane-fueled mower in your future?



» **PROPANE-FUELED COMMERCIAL LAWN MOWERS**, like the Ferris Propane Powered IS 3100 ZP zero-turn model, can help sports turf managers and landscape contractors achieve lower operating costs.

**A** PRISTINE NATURAL GRASS PLAYING SURFACE that both catches the eye of sporting event spectators and is safe for players is the goal of every sports turf manager that services those grounds. Arriving at that gorgeous, dark-green turf requires cost, and increasingly environmental, considerations, both of which are driving equipment purchase decisions.

The answer may be propane-fueled commercial mowers and equipment. Studies show propane-fueled lawn mowers reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 50%

compared with gasoline-fueled counterparts, and carbon monoxide emissions by more than 80%. Those low emissions mean labor continues on Ozone Action Days when use of gasoline-fueled mowers is limited or prohibited.

Propane-fueled mowers can also help sports turf managers achieve lower operating costs. For example, propane is a cleaner-burning fuel than gasoline, making oil changes easier. Further savings comes from the elimination of fuel spillage, leakage, and theft that can plague gasoline use. Financial

When it comes to propane-fueled mowers, sports turf managers have plenty of options from which to choose. More than 29 propane-fueled commercial lawn mower models exist today from the industry's top brands.

## Available equipment options

This list is just a start; visit [www.poweredbypropane.org](http://www.poweredbypropane.org) for more information.

© **Ariens/Gravely:** The Pro-Master 260H LP XDZ zero-turn mower features a 28hp/992cc Generac LP engine.

© **Bad Boy:** The Propane Series zero-turn mower uses a Briggs & Stratton 895cc/32hp Vanguard V-Twin engine allowing for an 80 percent emissions reduction.

© **Cub Cadet Commercial:** The new TANK S LP zero-turn mower utilizes an 852cc or 999cc Kawasaki engine powered by liquid propane.

© **Dixie Chopper:** The Xcaliber Propane zero-turn mower is fueled by two 40-pound propane cylinders and a 990cc Generac LP engine.

© **Exmark:** The Lazer Z Advantage Series zero-turn mower is powered by a 28hp Kawasaki V-Twin engine. Also available are the Turf Tracer and Turf Tracer HP propane-fueled walk-behind mowers.

© **Ferris Industries:** The IS 3100Z zero-turn mower features an 895cc Briggs & Stratton Vanguard Big Block V-Twin engine with vapor-draw fuel tanks.

© **Husqvarna:** The PZ6029PFX zero-turn mower uses a Kawasaki FX Series 29hp/852cc engine. Optional 33-pound tanks hold about 14 gallons of propane, allowing all-day operation.

© **Scag Power Equipment:** The zero-turn Dual-Fuel Turf Tiger is the only dual-fuel powered commercial mower on the market, with the ability to operate on both liquid propane and gasoline. An optional propane-only conversion kit allows it to conform to local regulations, while the mower is also available with a Kohler propane-fueled engine.

© **Schiller Grounds Care:** The Bob-Cat Predator-Pro LP zero-turn mower uses a 30hp Generac engine designed to take advantage of propane's higher octane level.

© **Snapper Pro:** The S200xp zero-turn mower features an 895cc Briggs & Stratton Vanguard Big Block V-Twin engine, offering up to 30 percent reduced emissions.

© **Zipper Mower:** The front-mount Model STS-28LP uses a Kawasaki 28hp air-cooled OHV engine.

In addition to those mowers, propane-fueled hand-held equipment is also available. For example, both the Lehr Incorporated Eco Trimmer and Eco Blower use a 16.4-ounce propane canister to operate a 25cc four-stroke engine, achieving a 2-hour run time. Both products produce no evaporative emissions, and avoid the need for priming, carburetor gum-up, and winterizing. ■

incentives are also available from select state propane gas associations that offer reimbursements for incremental costs associated with purchasing a propane-fueled mower.

When it comes to propane-fueled mowers, sports turf managers have plenty of options from which to choose. More than 29 propane-fueled commercial lawn mower models exist today from the industry's top brands. Available models allow sports turf managers to quickly tap into the sustainability and cost benefits, along with the propane refueling infrastructure already in place. Other propane-fueled lawn equipment on the market today includes hand-held equipment like string trimmers and blowers.

Also known as liquefied propane gas, LP-gas, or simply LP, propane is nontoxic, colorless, and virtually odorless; an identifying odor is added so the gas can be readily detected. Propane cylinders of varying capacities are mounted horizontally on propane-fueled mowers. Most cylinders are for vapor service only, and include a liquid prevention device (LPD) attached to the end of the vapor tube, along with an overfill prevention device (OPD). These cylinders are mower specific, even

though they might look similar to propane cylinders used for forklifts. What makes them different are a left-hand connection and a specific collar that indicates mower use only, helping ensure the proper equipment is deployed.

Two types of fuel systems are available on propane commercial mowers, liquid injection and vapor injection. Working closely with equipment dealers, manufacturers, and local propane providers can help sports turf managers identify the mower and fuel system that best fits the needs of both their facilities and staffs.

Many propane providers offer cylinder exchange programs, which usually include on-site installation of a cage to house cylinders. For larger volumes and multiple facilities, a no-spill dispenser can be installed on site at a centralized location and used to refuel both mowers and propane-fueled work trucks. ■

*Brian Feehan is Vice President of the Propane Education & Research Council, which came into existence by an act of Congress in 1996. Its mission is to promote the safe, efficient use of odorized propane gas as a preferred energy source.*

## Foliar fertilizer

Recover Rx 3-18-18 with SA is a foliar spray that improves turf health and helps turfgrasses withstand stressors such as extreme temperatures, drought, and disease. With 8 oz. of salicylic acid per gallon, an ideal P to K ratio of 1:1, and a proprietary blend of phosphorus sources, Recover Rx is exactly what the doctor ordered.

Recover Rx's key ingredient is salicylic acid (SA), the active ingredient in aspirin. A natural plant hormone (phytohormone), SA is produced in small quantities by all plants, and is present in high concentrations in willow trees. (The name salicylic acid is derived from the botanical name of the willow family – Salix.)

Applications at time of sodding and overseeding are especially beneficial, according to Randy Oberlander, a Nutrition Specialist with Growth Products. "Recover Rx with SA is ideal in these situations. Its salicylic acid stimulates growth and initiates the turf's systemic acquired resistance (SAR), while its phosphorus content kick-starts critical root growth," Oberlander explains.

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



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