nation with the aerification equipment in establishing grass seed at different depths within the soil profile. After an athletic field has been aerified, the vertiseeder will plant grass seed in the grooves produced by the machine; fall into aerification holes; and, with the remainder of the seed being on top of the soil, generally will be covered up by the soil that was cut out by the rotating blades.

Jeff Eckert, director of stadium and field operations, Joliet Jackhammers

that undercut and remove unwanted grass and weeds in the skinned or warning track. I also use a Tru-Mark line painter to lay down foul lines and coaches boxes. I have a mound gauge that aids in keeping the pitching mound to the correct specifications. It is hard to single out which tool is the most important because all of these listed are used on a daily basis during the season. Without these tools, it would be impossible to maintain a professional field, or any field for that matter.

shovels, measuring tape, water hoses, a power edger, string line, and loop "scuffle" hoes

When I came to the Jackhammers, I had the opportunity to acquire all of the necessary equipment and tools from my own wish list. We were a new baseball team in the Northern League in 2002, so I wanted to be sure I made the correct choices on everything that I purchased or did a trade agreement on.

The first and most important part in my arsenal is an aerator. In my opinion, this should be at the top of most equipment lists-yes, even ahead of a mower. You want to have a healthy, vigorously growing turf to maintain and, over time, without an aerator, you won't have much to play on or turf to mow. Aeration helps relieve compaction, allows air, moisture and fertilizer to penetrate down to the root system, and also aids in drainage. When considering what type of aerator I needed to buy, I had to determine what my budget would allow. I chose a Millcreek core aerator with a three-point hitch that is pulled with a tractor. Compared to most aerators, this fit well within my budget and would do the job that I needed. However, although it has been a decent aerator for the past 2 years, I am leaning toward a walkbehind greens aerator simply to get the weight of the tractor off the field. Everything is trial and error.

Another important piece of equipment for me is having a utility cart. I have two John Deere Gators that help haul tools and packing materials, drag my infield and warning track, pull lawn sweepers and top-dressers, and remove debris. Both are equipped with electric bed lifts, which come in handy when dumping a heavy load. I cannot say enough about the importance that these carts have in assisting me with my job.

Other pieces of equipment I have that are just as important are a Deere 4600 tractor with a front loader, a Deere commercial walk behind, and a Deere Z-Track mower to maintain berms and other common areas on site.

Important tools essential for my job in maintaining a baseball field include rakes, brooms, hand tamps,





#### COMPACT EXCAVATOR

Caterpillar's 321C LCR hydraulic excavators feature a compact swing radius for tight areas and increased horsepower and hydraulic flow, a larger cab for improved comfort and visibility, and auxiliary hydraulics for expanded versatility. Caterpillar/309-675-1000 For information, circle 078 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-078



#### DIXIE CHOPPER'S SUPREME MACHINE

The new Supreme Series of Dixie Chopper riding mowers cut nearly 7 acres of grass in an hour and feature VTC (Velvet

Touch Control) systems that make the drive system run cooler and longer. Dixie Chopper backs each mower with a lifetime warranty on its allwelded tube frame and front caster bearings, and is the first manufacturer to also offer a five-year engine warranty on its Generac model engines.

Magic Circle Corp/765-246-7737 For information, circle 075 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-075



#### **NEW HONDA MOWER**

Honda Power Equipment's HRX mowers are completely new and feature its Versamow system, which enables simultaneous distribution of grass clippings to both the bag and the ground. A Clip Director lever located behind the engine cowling operates a sliding door between the mower deck and the grass bag. The system also offers a setting for leaf shredding where leaves are re-circulated until they are small enough to pass through the Versamow opening and into the bag. All this can take place without a conventional mulch plug and labor-intensive conversion associated with most mowers.

Honda Power Equipment/800-426-7701 For information, circle 073 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-073

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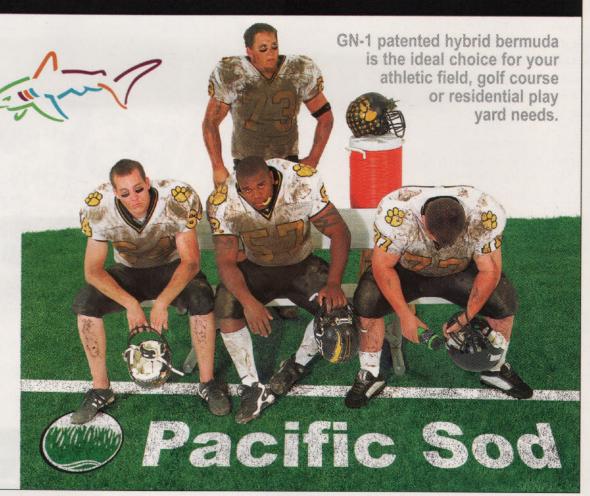


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#### **TURF VACUUM**

The TV60H PTO-powered hydraulic drive turf vacuum is designed specifically for sports field applications and golf course renovation. Features include a 7-cu.yd. hopper, 25-in. diameter blower with replaceable poly liner, and a hydraulic hopper dump and latch system. All controls from operator's seat.

For information, circle 074 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-074





## UTILITY WORK MACHINE

Bobcat Company has introduced its 5600 Toolcat Utility Work Machine equipped with a 44-hp Kubota diesel engine and combined all-wheel steer and 4-wheel drive in one machine. This combination gives it the ability to go through tough ground conditions, including mud and snow, while still being agile enough to work in sensitive working areas, like turf and grass.

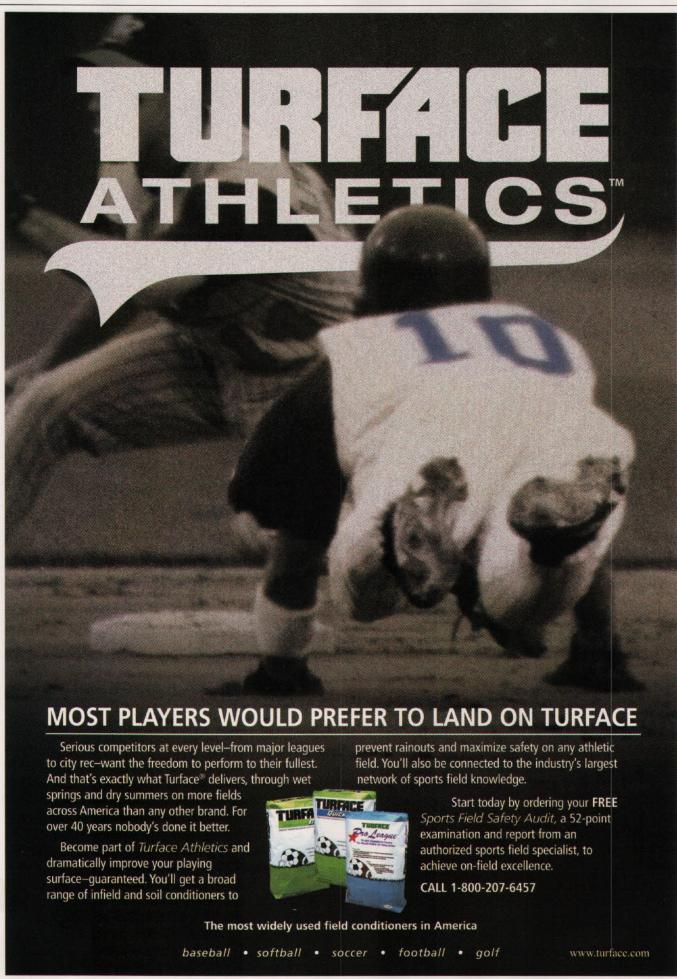
Bobcat Company/701-241-8700 For information, circle 081 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-081



#### MULTIPURPOSE DITCH WITCH

The Ditch Witch SK300 is a versatile mini skid steer that can transform from a trencher to a loader, a pallet lifter, or an augering machine. The SK300 offers a 13-hp Honda engine, 300-lb. rated operating capacity, and independent dual hydrostatic ground drives to provide a zero turning radius.

Ditch Witch/800-654-6481 For information, circle 080 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-080



Circle 123 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2906-123

#### 50-HP "CHOPPER"

With a fuel-efficient Yammer horizontal shaft, turbo-charged 50-hp diesel engine, the XXWD5000-72 riding mower is called "the most powerful machine" in the Dixie Chopper lineup. Units feature mounted replaceable Yammer oil filters, electric start, gear driven oil pump. Dixie Chopper/765-246-7737

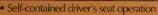
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see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-084



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#### Circle 120 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2906-120

#### **'BEDSHAPER"**

The Little Wonder BedShaper cuts crisp clean edges, even "S" curves, up to 100 feet per minute. Its added differential and zero-turning radius offer maneuverability and precision. With a hydrostatic transmission (for infinite speed control in forward and reverse), multiple engine options, and cutting

bed edger. Little Wonder/877-596-6337 For information, circle 083 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-083



#### **NEW ZT MOWER**

The EverRide Warrior zero turn radius mower from Auburn Consolidated Industries, the original equipment manufacturer for Kubota, Honda, John Deere, Case New Holland and others. Features include 7-gauge tunnel deck with 149 sq. in. of discharge area; frame laser-cut from Grade 50 steel; and hydrostat system with top-mounted cooling fans. Auburn Consolidated Industries 402-274-8600 For information, circle 082 or

see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-082



#### TRACTOR LOADER BACKHOE

The John Deere 110 tractor loader backhoe from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers' magazine. The unit operates as a full-sized backhoe loader but has the versatility of a utility tractor, says Deere. John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 085 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-085



The Bob-Cat Classic is an updated gear-drive walk-behind mower available with a 15-hp Briggs & Stratton ELS or a 15-hp Kohler Command Pro engine, and either a 36 or 48 in. side discharge, fixed-mount mowing deck. Features include a unitized engine and cutting deck and electric clutch with single deck drive belts.

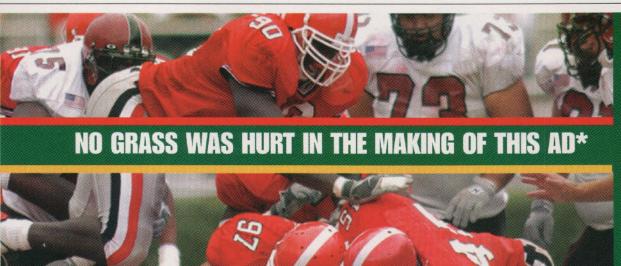
For information, circle 077 or

see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-077

#### FINISH CUT MOWERS

AcrEase wing mowers are stable on steep banks, maneuverable, and pulled individually or ganged together behind or to the side of an ATV, riding around trees, under low branches, and close to buildings. The deep deck with large side discharge provides a quality finish cut with air flow and uniform discharge at high mowing

Kunz Engineering, Inc/815-539-6954 For information, circle 079 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-079



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#### HAND-HELD TRIMMERS

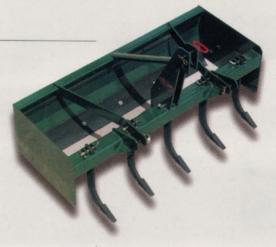
Sarlo Power Mowers, Inc., is introducing WEEDBOSS hand-held trimmers, the first to be powered by FOURCE four-cycle engines from Briggs & Stratton. By incorporating four-cycle technology, the trimmers are easier

to start and more convenient to operate, while providing extra power and cleaner operation compared to trimmers with two-cycle engines. Sarlo Power Mowers, Inc/800-749-5296 For information, circle 072 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-072



Town & Country has its new Freedom box scraper with optional scarifier shanks for soil surface smoothing and leveling. The replaceable, fixed-position, doublesided blade pulls soil for leveling or pushes for backfilling. Features category I hitch; available in 4, 5, 5 1/2, 6, and 7-ft. widths. Town & Country Ltd/419-532-3553

For information, circle 086 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-086

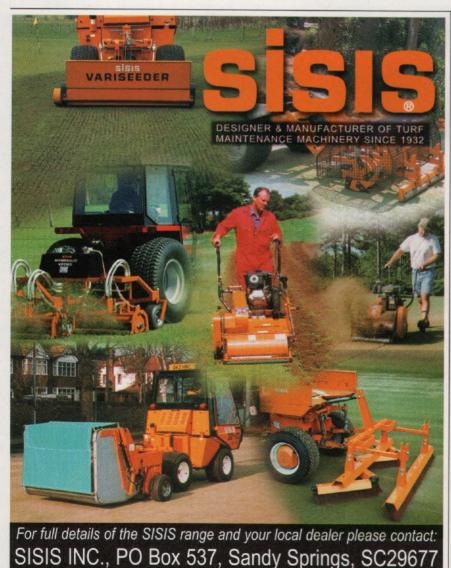




#### **NEW AERATOR AVAILABLE**

The EarthQuake rotary turf "decompactor" from England is now available in the US. The machine relieves rootzone and subsoil compaction to depths of 10 in. or more without disrupting the playing surface, says the manufacturer. Units feature rotating wedge-shaped knives that create a lateral wave-like action over the machine's working width. Demos available.

Prestige Marketing/877-651-2049 For information, circle 076 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-076



Phone: (864) 843 5972 Fax: (864) 843 5974 Email: idc@sisis.com Circle 126 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2906-126



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### TORO SPRAYER

Toro's Multi Pro 5600 sprayers deliver accurate spray coverage for better and your budget. The spray system has a dual diaphragn pump that can be run dry without damage to the seals

"By replacing the centrifugal pump with this positive-displacement diaphragm sprayers, we've effectively eliminated the biggest eliminated the biggest headache associated with

The Toro Co./800-803-8676 For information, circle 099 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-099

#### MANUAL SPRAYER

Echo's MS-100 manual backpack sprayer features an enclosed piston and diaphragm pump that produces from 15-150 psi. The 20-in. brass wand and adjustable nozzle of the unit deliver a controlled spray ranging from wide angle mist to a single stream. All critical seals and O-rings made from Viton formulation.

Echo Inc/847-540-8400 For information, circle 175 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-175



#### **ALL-ELECTRIC WALKING GREENS MOWER**

The E-Walk all-electric walking greens mower from Jacobsen was used at the Memorial Tournament in May. "We calculated that the E-Walk, with its higher frequency of clip, would give us the same finish and green speed without having to drastically lower the height of cut," said Mike McBride, superintendent at Muirfield Village.

Jacobsen/888-922-8873 For information, circle 098 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2906-098







reen is great. It's the prevalent color of the lush turf, towering trees, and dense hedges that provide the basis for many successful landscapes. However, green is only the beginning! Nothing brings attention to your work like using colorful annuals in the landscape. Well-executed use of color is just one way to continually promote the value of your services and annuals are among the most colorful, versatile plants for the job. Changing the annuals in a bed from one season to the next can provide a dramatic change that keeps the whole site fresh.

If you know the basics of designing with color and how to select and care for the best annual varieties, you can create the perfect landscape combination: a high impact design with low maintenance requirements.

#### **Opposites attract**

Combining colors in the most eye-catching way is one key to creating a high impact planting. There's really no such thing as too much color in a planting, but too many distinct colors can really make the wrong impression. Instead, choose a color scheme and use it consistently throughout the planting. Remember that opposites do attract; colors set across from each other on the color wheel, like yellow and purple, combine nicely.

In general, most "hot" and "cool" colors complement each other well, even if they aren't really "opposites." An example would be combining red and purple in a planting, like Purple Lady iresine and Vista Red salvia. Using similar colors (those next to each other on a color wheel) like orange and yellow can produce a stunning combination. Monochromatic schemes (those using a range of shades in one main color) can create a big impact as well, particularly in large plantings. Pay attention to foliage color, too; foliage comes in lots of different shades (don't assume it's just green!) and should complement the bloom colors you're using. Finally, a good rule of thumb is to use light or very vibrant shades against dark backgrounds and darker colors against

pale backdrops; this will keep the plants visible, creating the maximum visual impact.

All mowers, trimmers, and trucks are not created equal, and neither are all annual varieties. Choosing the best-performing varieties for your site will go a long way toward managing the maintenance requirements of the planting. Also, top-performing plants will, with proper care, look good all season.

To be sure you're making the best variety decisions, ask some basic questions. First, think about the site itself. Is the climate hot or cool? Does the site receive a lot



of sunlight, or is it mostly shaded? Answering these questions will help you narrow down your choices of suitable plant material for the job. If you're not sure which varieties fit your needs, your local grower or extension agent are valuable resources. When considering specific varieties, think about the growth habit of the plant. How tall does it get? How far does it spread? Knowing about plant habits helps you choose plants that

will reach the proper height or width for the site and keeps you from inadvertently planting tall varieties in front of lower growing ones or planting vigorously spreading varieties in very small spaces. To keep things simple for your maintenance crews, pay attention to watering and fertilizer requirements, and plant varieties with similar needs together.

Most of all remember: all petunias, geraniums, impatiens, and so on are not the same. Even within one genus, individual varieties can be quite different. For example, one Wave petunia plant can spread up to 4 feet in the landscape, more than twice the spread of a standard petunia. Additionally, Wave varieties don't require deadheading, so they require less maintenance than other varieties. If you use just any petunia, you might not be getting the best possible variety for your needs.

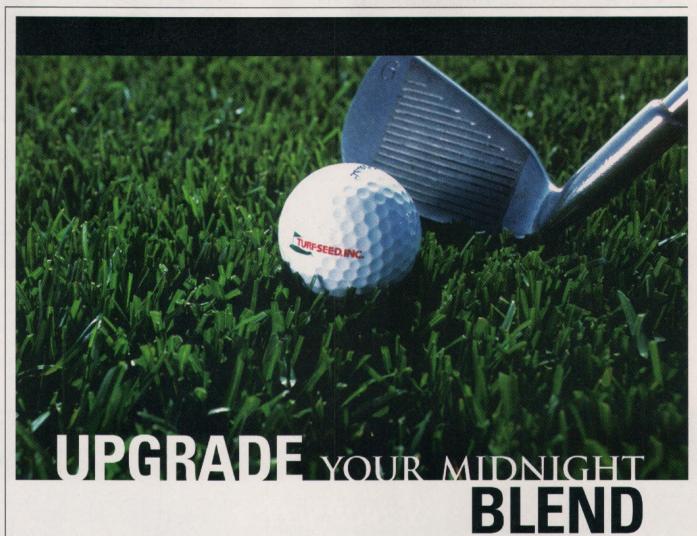
#### **Basic care tips**

Again, keep it simple: take note of the care requirements for different varieties and combine varieties with similar needs. Use enough annuals to plant them close together to fill in the bed quickly, but don't overcrowd the plants. Regular watering helps plants get established in the ground. Above all, select easy-care, very colorful varieties, whether they're known for their flowers or their foliage. Dragon Wing begonia, Landmark lantana, Wave petunia, Aztec trailing verbena, and Fiesta double impatiens are just a few of the eye-catching solutions available. Their color provides the impact; their good performance makes them easy to maintain.

Still not sure where to start? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Containers: Plants in containers require a little more water and fertilizer than those in the ground, but containers really can be low maintenance. It's simple to change, replace or altogether remove them if necessary, and they have the added bonus of putting color in places where beds aren't possible, like sidewalks or entryways. Another big benefit is that containers generally don't require weeding, because the plants in containers don't leave and space for weeds to grow.

Seasonal color. Changing the look of a planting for different seasons is quite simple. For early spring or fall, try Sorbet violas. They're available in a huge array of colors and, because their peak performance is during the seasons when most schools are in session, they can even be used for landscapes in school colors! When planted in the



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## CAREFULLY CONSIDER **COLOR COMBINATIONS** AND PLANT SELECTIONS; THINKING NOW MEANS LESS WORK LATER.

fall, they'll overwinter in most areas and return for a second show of color in spring. Summer is a great time for petunias, impatiens or other warm-weather plants that are available in lots of hot hues, so the colors fit the temperature. Violas and petunias perform best in full sun; New Guinea impatiens prefer shade to partial shade areas.

Large mixed plantings. Combine plants of different heights and habits to create interesting plantings with lots of impact. Planting a tall variety like Purple Majesty ornamental millet with mid-height or low-growing plants like Wave petunias around it makes a big statement in full sun. Just be sure the plants you use have the same light, water and care requirements, as these do.

Small space solutions. You can pack a lot of color into a small space if you use the right plants. Designer geraniums have large blooms in bright shades and perform well in both large and small-scale plantings. They perform best in full sun.

It is possible to create successful landscapes that are both high impact and low



maintenance. The bottom line is that you must carefully consider color combinations and plant selections. Up front thinking now means less work later, so spend some time planning the project to ensure great results.

Jessie Atchison is an account rep with Ball Horticultural Co., www.ballhort.com or www.ballseed.com.

